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Characteristics of Food Stamp Households

Summer 1990



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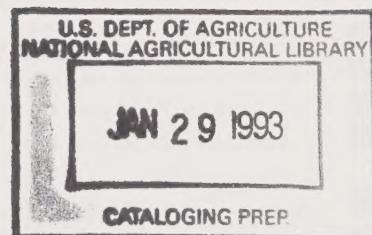
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**CHARACTERISTICS OF
FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS
SUMMER 1990**

July 23, 1992

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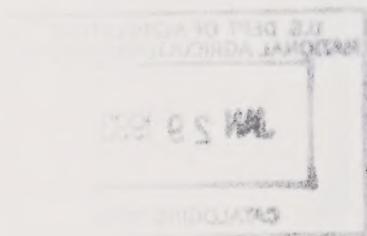
This work was prepared as one task of a competitively awarded contract; the total amount of the contract is \$2,854,698.

This report was prepared by Nancy Heiser of Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation. Many individuals made important contributions to the report. The author thanks Suzanne Smolkin for developing the 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample file, for generating the statistics presented in the report, and for writing sections of the report; Pat Doyle and Harold Beebout for providing guidance and reviewing the report; Robert Cohen for providing technical support; Thomas Good and Daryl Hall for editing the report; and Sheana Carter and Deborah Patterson for preparing the manuscript. The author also thanks Jenny Genser of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service for providing guidance and program information.

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August 1992



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Food Stamp Program (FSP) provides millions of Americans with the means to purchase food for a nutritious diet. The FSP is the largest of the 13 domestic nutrition assistance programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). In an average month in fiscal year 1990, the FSP served approximately 20.1 million persons. This report presents the characteristics of FSP households nationwide in summer (July and August) 1990 based on FSP household data for those two months collected by FNS for quality control purposes.

FSP Participation and Costs

In summer 1990, the FSP provided benefits to an average of 20.4 million persons living in 8 million households across the United States. The total cost for the program over fiscal year 1990 was \$15.5 billion, \$14.2 billion of which were for FSP benefits. The average monthly food stamp benefit per household in summer 1990 was \$148. Compared with summer 1989, the level of FSP participation increased 9 percent, and FSP costs increased approximately 20 percent.¹

Characteristics of FSP Households and Participants

In summer 1990, the majority of households served by the FSP contained children or elderly or disabled persons. Almost half of all FSP participants were children, 40 percent were nonelderly adults, and 8 percent were elderly persons. Most of the children were school-age, and most of the adults were women.

Almost all (92 percent) of the FSP households lived below the official Federal Government poverty line. FSP benefits were concentrated among poorer households--while the gross income of 39 percent of all households was less than or equal to half of the poverty line, they received 56 percent of all benefits. If the value of food stamps is included as income, 7 percent of all FSP households moved above the poverty line as a result of receiving food stamps, and 26 percent moved from below to above half of the poverty line.

Of all FSP households, 82 percent contained either a child or an elderly or disabled person, and these households received 88 percent of all benefits. Households with children received a relatively large average monthly food stamp benefit (\$198) reflecting their relatively large average household size (3.5 persons). Most of the FSP households with children were single-parent households that also received support from Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC).

Almost three-quarters of food stamp households with an elderly member consisted of an elderly person living alone. These individuals received an average benefit of \$38. The average food stamp benefit for all households containing an elderly person was \$56, reflecting their smaller household size.

¹FSP participation and costs have continued to grow significantly since 1990. In April 1992, 25.8 million persons received food stamps, an increase of over 26 percent from summer 1990.

Characteristics of Children in FSP Households

Since children represent the age group with the highest poverty rate in the United States, they have been of particular interest to FNS. This report contains a special analysis focused on children in FSP households based on all 12 months of the Food Stamp Quality Control fiscal year 1990 database. In an average month in fiscal year 1990, the FSP served 10 million children. The average monthly per person benefit for persons living in households with children was \$57.

Food stamps significantly increased the purchasing power of the households in which FSP children lived, helping them to acquire and maintain nutritious diets. When the value of food stamps is included as income, 7 percent of all children in food stamp households moved above the poverty line. Food stamp benefits had an even greater impact on the poorest children, moving 31 percent above 50 percent of the poverty line.

The average age of a child receiving food stamps was 8 years. About 38 percent were black, 36 percent were white, 17 percent were Hispanic, and 8 percent were Asian, Native American, or of another race/ethnicity. The majority of children (63 percent) lived in households headed by single females.

AFDC was a major source of income for two-thirds of FSP children, while about 27 percent of FSP children lived in households with earnings. Most FSP children (64 percent) lived in households entitled to a shelter deduction, and one-quarter of the children lived in households entitled to a shelter deduction equal to the shelter deduction cap. About 4 percent of FSP children lived in households entitled to a dependent-care deduction.

Of all FSP participants in an average month in fiscal year 1990, about half were children; however, children as a percentage of all participants varied by State. Children as a percentage of participants in a given State ranged from 61.4 percent in California to 41.4 percent in West Virginia. A high percentage of FSP participants in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, New Jersey, South Carolina, Utah, and Wisconsin were children.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

The Food Stamp Program (FSP) is a central component of America's overall system of providing assistance to low-income households. The major purpose of the FSP is "to permit low-income households to obtain a more nutritious diet . . . by increasing their purchasing power" (The Food Stamp Act of 1977, P.L. 95-113). The FSP is the largest of the 13 different domestic nutrition assistance programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). During fiscal year 1990, the FSP served approximately 20.1 million persons in an average month at a total annual cost of \$15.5 billion.

The FSP is the only income maintenance program that provides assistance nationwide to essentially all financially needy households without imposing nonfinancial categorical criteria, such as whether households contain children or elderly persons. The FSP is also unique in that it provides benefits in the form of coupons. Food stamp coupons can be redeemed for food in any of over 200,000 authorized stores across the nation.

The Federal Government and State and local governments share the costs and administration of the FSP. The U.S. Congress authorizes the FSP, while the U.S. Department of Agriculture establishes FSP regulations pursuant to the Food Stamp Act of 1977 as amended. FNS administers the FSP nationally, while State and local welfare agencies operate the program locally. The Federal Government fully funds the benefits of the FSP. Administrative costs are shared by the cooperating agencies, with FNS usually paying 50 percent of the costs.

Since food stamps are available to all persons who meet the income and resource standards set by Congress, the FSP serves a broad spectrum of needy persons. Using FSP household data, which FNS periodically collects for quality control review purposes, FNS produces a series of reports (see appendix J) that present FSP household characteristics to enhance our understanding of those served by the FSP. This report, the latest in this series, presents a picture of households and individuals participating in the FSP in summer 1990.

Chapter 2 provides an overview of the FSP and the regulations used to determine eligibility and food stamp benefits, as well as the factors that affect program participation and costs, such as legislative changes and trends in the national economy. Chapter 3 describes the characteristics of FSP households and participants in summer 1990. Chapter 4 discusses the characteristics of children in FSP households in 1990. The appendixes include supplemental tables, detailed tabulations of household characteristics, and a brief description of the sample design and the sampling error associated with the estimates.

CHAPTER 2: AN OVERVIEW OF THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

The characteristics of FSP households and the level of FSP participation change over time in response to economic and demographic trends and to legislative changes in eligibility requirements. This chapter begins by explaining FSP eligibility requirements, application procedures, benefit computation, and food stamp issuance. It goes on to discuss how the program changed from summer (July and August) 1989 to summer 1990 and concludes with a summary of program participation and costs and their relationship to the economy in fiscal year 1990.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, establishes uniform national eligibility standards for the FSP and defines the basic FSP unit, the "household." The eligibility criteria include gross and net income limits, an asset limit, and various nonfinancial criteria. Some exceptions to these uniform standards exist for certain high-cost areas, such as Alaska and Hawaii, and for certain individuals, such as elderly persons (age 60 and over) and disabled persons. Below, we discuss how a household is defined in the FSP and the eligibility criteria for the program.

The Household

In general, individuals who live in a residential unit and purchase and prepare food together constitute a household as defined in the FSP. The income and assets of each household member are aggregated to determine eligibility and benefits. Individuals who live together in a residential unit but do not purchase and prepare food together can apply as separate household units; thus, their income and assets are considered separately in eligibility and benefit determinations, with some exceptions. Special provisions allow elderly and disabled persons who cannot prepare and purchase food because of a substantial disability to apply as a separate household as long as the gross monthly income of the remainder of their residential unit is less than 165 percent of the official Federal Government poverty guidelines.¹ Groups that are always considered one household regardless of their food purchasing and preparation arrangements include married couples, parents and their minor children, childless individuals living with their nonelderly parents, and childless nonelderly individuals living with their childless nonelderly siblings.

Income Eligibility Standards

Monthly income is the most important determinant of a household's FSP eligibility. The majority of households that apply for food stamps must meet two income eligibility standards--a gross income standard and a net income standard. As defined in the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, gross income includes most cash income (with the exception of specific types of income such as loans) and excludes most noncash income, or in-kind benefits. The specific standards are identified below.

¹Federal Government poverty guidelines are established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and are updated annually by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

First, the gross monthly income of all households without an elderly or disabled member must be at or below 130 percent of the poverty line (\$1,311 for a family of four in the contiguous United States in fiscal year 1990). Households that contain elderly and disabled members are not subject to the gross income test. Second, households that meet the gross income eligibility standard must then meet a net income eligibility standard, defined as net monthly income at or below 100 percent of the poverty line (\$1,009 for a family of four in the contiguous United States in fiscal year 1990). Net income is determined by subtracting deductions permitted under the FSP from monthly gross income. Both the gross and net income eligibility standards are established for various household sizes (see appendixes C and D). Households are exempt from these income tests, as well as the asset test, if all members of a household receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) income or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

The FSP deducts the following from a household's gross monthly income to arrive at the net monthly income:²

- **Standard deduction.** All households automatically received a standard deduction equal to \$112 in the contiguous United States and the District of Columbia in fiscal year 1990. The standard deduction for outlying States and Territories varies to reflect price differences between these areas and the contiguous United States (see appendix E). The standard deduction amounts are adjusted annually to reflect changes in the cost of living.
- **Earned income deduction.** Households with earnings receive an earned income deduction equal to 20 percent of the combined earnings of household members.
- **Dependent-care deduction.** Households with dependents receive a dependent-care deduction for expenses involved in caring for children and other dependents while household members work, seek employment, or go to school. The maximum dependent-care deduction for households with dependents was \$160 per dependent per month in fiscal year 1990.
- **Medical deduction.** A medical deduction is available only to households that contain elderly or disabled members. These households can deduct all medical costs incurred by the elderly or disabled person that exceed \$35. Medical expenses reimbursed by insurance or government programs are not deductible. If a household contains more than one disabled or elderly person, then it can deduct the combined medical expenses for those disabled or elderly persons that exceed the elderly or disabled person's initial \$35 expense.
- **Excess shelter expense deduction.** All households are entitled to an excess shelter expense deduction equal to shelter costs (such as rent, mortgage payments, utility

²There is a distinction between a household's deduction entitlement and the amount actually used to compute food stamp benefits. The entitlement is the deduction that a household would receive on the basis of its earned income and dependent-care, shelter, and medical expenses if the total of these allowable deductions was less than its gross income. Because net income cannot be less than zero, households with total deductions greater than their gross incomes could only claim a portion of their deduction entitlement.

bills, property taxes, and insurance) that exceed 50 percent of a household's countable income after all other potential deductions are subtracted from gross income. This deduction is subject to a limit (see appendix E) except for households that contain elderly or disabled members, which are entitled to subtract the full value of shelter costs that exceed 50 percent of their adjusted income. The limit on the excess shelter expense deduction for households without elderly or disabled members for fiscal year 1990 was \$177 for the contiguous United States and the District of Columbia. The excess shelter expense deduction for outlying States and Territories varies to reflect price differences between these areas and the contiguous United States. The deduction limit is adjusted annually to reflect changes in the cost of housing.

Assets

The second most important determinant of FSP eligibility is a household's assets. Most households are permitted up to \$2,000 in countable assets; however, households that contain elderly persons are allowed up to \$3,000. Countable assets include cash, assets that can easily be converted into cash (such as money in checking or savings accounts, savings certificates, stocks or bonds, and lump-sum payments), and nonliquid resources. However, selected pieces of property such as family homes, tools of a trade, or business property used to earn income are not counted. Assets also do not include vehicles used to produce income or to transport elderly or disabled persons. Vehicles not used for these purposes are counted in the following way: for the first vehicle or vehicles used to commute to work, any fair market value exceeding \$4,500 is counted; for all other vehicles, the higher of either any fair market value above \$4,500 or any equity is counted.

Nonfinancial Eligibility Standards

While the FSP does not impose categorical eligibility standards, some specific nonfinancial restrictions are placed on the participation of aliens, students, strikers, and persons who are institutionalized. In addition, able-bodied food stamp participants are required to register for and accept suitable employment. The following individuals are exempt from this work registration requirement:

- Persons younger than age 16 or older than age 59
- Persons who are physically or mentally disabled
- Caretakers of dependent children younger than age 6 or of incapacitated adults
- Persons who work at least 30 hours per week
- Persons subject to the work requirements of the AFDC program
- Persons who receive unemployment insurance
- Persons ages 16 and 17 who are not household heads or who are attending school
- Persons in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation programs

- Students enrolled in school at least half-time

Since April 1987, most work registrants have been required to participate in State Employment and Training (E&T) programs, which provide work experience, educational programs, and job search training. Not all work registrants are required to participate in E&T programs, however. For example, States may exempt pregnant women and persons living in areas where E&T programs are not available.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

To apply for food stamps, individuals are required to appear in person at their local food stamp offices. However, elderly and disabled persons and persons who have transportation problems can be interviewed by telephone or at their homes. All States must allow individuals to apply for food stamps when they apply for AFDC. Individuals applying for SSI benefits can simultaneously apply for food stamps.

The Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, requires that local offices process applications for food stamps within 30 days after their receipt. However, households without significant income or resources can receive expedited food stamp eligibility verification procedures and acquire food stamp benefits within five calendar days after they apply. Those eligible for expedited service include (1) homeless persons, (2) migrant or seasonal farm workers with assets equal to or less than \$100, (3) households with gross income equal to or less than \$150 and assets equal to or less than \$100, and (4) households with shelter costs that exceed their gross income and assets combined.

FSP participants are required to appear in person at their local food stamp offices periodically for recertification. The certification period varies according to the likelihood of a change in a FSP household's financial circumstances. In summer 1990, a FSP household was certified for food stamps for an average of 10 months.

BENEFIT COMPUTATION

After a household is certified for food stamps, its monthly food stamp benefit is computed on the basis of its net monthly income, the benefit reduction rate, and the maximum food stamp benefit for its household size and location. The maximum benefit to which a household is entitled is based on the June cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) for a family of four, adjusted for different household sizes and geographic areas outside the contiguous United States. The cost of the TFP is based on an economical and nutritious diet, adjusted for household size and composition. Maximum benefits are revised annually to reflect changes in the cost of the foods included in the TFP. As specified in the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, maximum food stamp benefits in summer 1990 were based on 102.05 percent of the TFP for a family of four. Thus, in summer 1990, the maximum monthly benefit for a family of four in the contiguous United States was \$331 (see appendix F).³

The benefit reduction rate is the rate at which benefits are reduced for every additional dollar of net income. The benefit reduction rate is 30 percent, reflecting the assumption that a household is

³The maximum benefit was 100 percent of the TFP through 1988, 100.65 percent in 1989, 102.05 percent in 1990, and 103 percent in 1991 and thereafter.

expected to spend 30 percent of its net income on food, and that the FSP will provide the difference between that amount and the maximum benefit. Thus, benefits are reduced by 30 cents for every additional dollar of net income.

A household's monthly food stamp benefit is computed by subtracting 30 percent of its net income from the maximum benefit. If a household has zero net income, it receives the maximum food stamp benefit. All eligible one- and two-person households are guaranteed a minimum benefit of at least \$10 per month (except during the initial month of participation). For new participants, benefits are prorated for the first month.

FOOD STAMP ISSUANCE

Local and State food stamp offices use various systems to provide food stamp benefits to FSP participants. The following are the four main methods of issuance:

- **ATP card system.** An authorization to participate identification card (ATP card) is mailed to the participant each month; the participant then exchanges the card for food stamp benefits at an authorized issuance office.
- **Mail system.** State and local offices mail the food stamp benefits directly to the participant.
- **Manual system.** The FSP participant obtains benefits directly from the food stamp office.
- **Electronic benefit transfer.** The FSP participant receives a "debit" card, similar to a bank card, which is used when making food purchases at authorized retail stores. The household's monthly benefit is electronically transferred to a benefit account created specifically for FSP benefits. When a purchase is made, the amount of the purchase is debited electronically from the household's FSP account.

PROGRAM CHANGES SINCE THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR

During fiscal year 1990, only minor changes were made to the FSP:

- The Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 raised the maximum food stamp benefit to 102.05 percent of the TFP for fiscal year 1990.
- The Agent Orange Compensation Exclusion Act (P.L. 101-201) excluded payments made from the Agent Orange Settlement Fund from income when determining FSP eligibility and benefits.
- Public Law 101-201 authorized the food stamp portion of the Minnesota Family Investment Plan.

- Public Law 101-220 extended the temporary income exclusion for certain housing assistance for the homeless through September 30, 1990.

FSP PARTICIPATION AND COSTS

After reaching a peak of 22.6 million persons in March 1983, FSP participation declined steadily (with the exception of seasonal fluctuations) as the economy expanded until fiscal year 1989 when it again began to increase (see figure 2.1). FSP participation continued to increase in fiscal year 1990 when the FSP served an average of 20.4 million persons per month--a 9 percent increase from fiscal year 1989.⁴

The increase in FSP participation beginning in 1989 may have been indicative of the economic recession that began in 1990. The economic indicators in fiscal year 1989 and 1990 (see table 2.1) portray the beginning of a downturn in the economy--the growth in Gross National Product and productivity declined; the decline in the unemployment rate slowed considerably between fiscal years 1988 and 1989, and the unemployment rate increased between fiscal years 1989 and 1990; and the percentage of persons living in poverty increased between fiscal years 1989 and 1990. The increase in FSP participation was caused in part by the softening economy. Other factors, such as the liberalization of Medicaid, improved access to FSP offices in many areas of the country, simpler application forms, and the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, which legalized 3 million undocumented aliens, had some impact on the increase in FSP participation.⁵

Total costs of the FSP also increased between fiscal years 1989 and 1990 from \$12.9 to \$15.5 billion (a 20 percent increase); costs for FSP benefits increased by 21 percent. The average benefit per person increased from \$52 to \$59, reflecting cost-of-living adjustments and a real increase in the maximum benefit amounts from 100.65 percent of the TFP to 102.05 percent of the TFP. Total Federal FSP costs in fiscal year 1990 consisted of \$14.2 billion for benefits, \$1.1 billion for State administration, and \$191 million for E&T programs and other expenses.

⁴FSP participation and costs have continued to grow since 1990. In April 1992, 25.8 million persons received food stamps.

⁵For more information on factors affecting the increase in FSP participation, see "The Increase in Food Stamp Program Participation between 1989 and 1990: A Report to Congress." Report submitted to the Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Washington, DC: Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., August 1991.

Figure 2.1

Food Stamp Program participation and the number of unemployed workers
(Average fiscal year quarters 1982 - 1990)

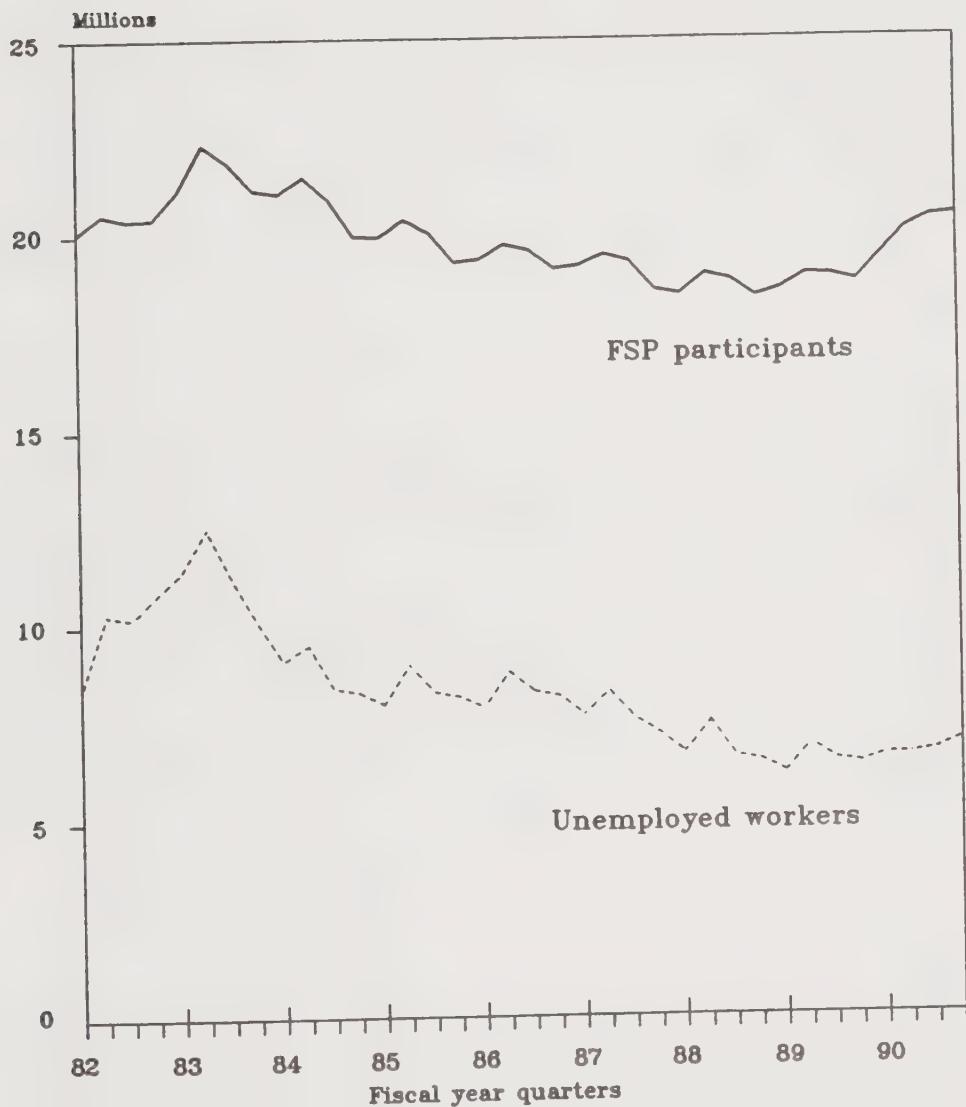


Table 2-1-Major economic indicators, calendar years 1982-1990
(average annual rates in percent)

Economic indicator	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Real GNP increase ^a	-2.5%	3.6%	6.8%	3.4%	2.7%	3.4%	4.5%	2.5%	0.9%
Productivity increase ^b	-0.7	2.3	2.5	2.0	2.3	1.1	2.2	-0.5	-0.6
Unemployment rate ^c	9.7	9.6	7.5	7.2	7.0	6.2	5.5	5.3	5.5
Inflation rate ^d	6.4	3.9	3.7	3.0	2.6	3.2	3.3	4.1	4.1
Interest rates ^e	13.8	12.0	12.7	11.4	9.0	9.4	9.7	9.3	9.3
Persons below 100 percent of poverty level									
Number in thousands	34,398	35,303	33,700	33,064	32,370	32,546	31,878	31,487	33,585
Percentage of total population	15.0	15.2	14.4	14.0	13.6	13.4	13.1	12.8	13.5

^aPercent change from preceding period. Table B-2.

^bPercent change in output per hour, business sector. Table B-47.

^cAll civilian workers. Table B-39.

^dChange in implicit price deflator for Gross National Product. Table B-3.

^eCorporate Aaa bond yield. Table B-71.

Source for first five lines of data: *Economic Report of the President*, Washington, DC, February 1991.

Source for last two lines of data: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 166, Money Income and Poverty Status in the United States: 1988 (Advance Data from the March 1989 Current Population Survey)*, Washington, DC, 1989, and Series P-160, No. 169-40, *Measuring the Effect of Benefits and Taxes on Income and Poverty: 1990*, Washington, DC, 1991.

CHAPTER 3: CHARACTERISTICS OF FSP HOUSEHOLDS AND PARTICIPANTS

The FSP serves the nutritional needs of a broad spectrum of low-income Americans. In summer 1990, the FSP provided benefits each month to an average of 20.4 million persons living in 8 million households.¹ Almost all FSP households lived in poverty (according to the official Federal Government poverty guidelines used for program eligibility in fiscal year 1990). The vast majority of FSP households contained either a child (under age 18), an elderly person (over age 59), or a disabled person. The average FSP household received a monthly FSP benefit of \$148, had an average gross monthly income of \$455 and an average net monthly income of \$252, was entitled to an average total deduction of \$225 a month, and had an average household size of 2.6 persons. This chapter elaborates on the economic status of FSP households and discusses the composition of FSP households, the characteristics of FSP participants, and changes in the characteristics of FSP households between summer 1989 and summer 1990.

THE POVERTY STATUS OF FSP HOUSEHOLDS²

The FSP provides benefits to households in need. As shown in table 3.1, the gross monthly income of 92 percent of FSP households in summer 1990 was less than or equal to 100 percent of the Federal Government poverty guidelines (see appendix D). The gross monthly income of over half of all FSP households (62 percent) was less than or equal to 75 percent of the poverty line, and the income of 39 percent of all FSP households was less than or equal to 50 percent of the poverty line.

The FSP effectively targets benefits to the most needy households. That is, poorer households receive larger food stamp benefits than do households with more income. As shown in table 3.1, while only 39 percent of all FSP households had gross monthly incomes below 51 percent of the poverty line, they received 56 percent of all benefits. In contrast, the income of a greater number of FSP households (53 percent) was from 51 to 100 percent of the poverty line, but they received only 41 percent of the benefits.

¹The information discussed in this chapter and the estimates in appendix A are limited to summer 1990 food stamp participants in the 50 States and the District of Columbia based on a sample of 11,000 households. Additional FSP participants resided in Guam and the Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico, which until July 1982 had participated in the FSP, served participants through its Nutritional Assistance Program, and the Northern Mariana Islands also participated in a block grant program. Based on FNS administrative records, the FSP served 20.4 million persons in summer 1990. The figure based on the Food Stamp Quality Control sample of 20.7 million persons served by the FSP in summer 1990 (as presented in appendix A) is higher than the administrative figure because it is a sample estimate and it is weighted by households rather than individuals (see appendix G for more information about the Food Stamp Quality Control sample).

²For more information on the economic status of FSP households, see appendix tables A-5 through A-11.

Table 3.1--Distribution of households and benefits by the poverty line,
summer 1990

Gross income as a percentage of poverty ^a	Percent of all households	Percent of all benefits
25% or less	14.9	21.3
26-50	24.0	34.9
51-75	23.2	25.4
76-100	29.4	15.1
101-130	7.9	3.2
131 or more	0.5	0.1
Total^b	100.0	100.0

^aDefined as the 1990 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see appendixes C and D).

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

To estimate the impact of food stamps on a household's purchasing power, we can add the dollar value of the food stamps to household income and then examine the distribution of households by poverty status.³ As shown in table 3.2, the combination of cash and food stamps--an alternative measure of gross income that includes food stamp benefits--yields a significantly different distribution of FSP households by poverty status. Specifically, the alternative measure of income sufficiently increased the income of FSP households to move 7 percent of them above the poverty line. Food stamp benefits had an even greater impact on the poorest households, moving 26 percent of FSP households above 50 percent of the poverty line.

HOUSEHOLDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

While the FSP does not restrict eligibility for food stamps to certain individuals, it effectively serves many households that contain persons with special needs--that is, children and elderly or disabled persons.⁴ In summer 1990, 82 percent of all FSP households contained either a child or an elderly or disabled person. These households received 88 percent of all FSP benefits. This section describes the characteristics of FSP households containing children, elderly persons, or disabled persons. Chapter 4 discusses children in FSP households in more detail, since children constitute the most impoverished age group in the United States.

Children⁵

In summer 1990, the FSP served an average of 10 million children each month. Over half (61 percent) of all FSP households contained children (see table 3.3). Compared with other FSP households, the ones that contained children received a relatively high average food stamp benefit of \$198 per month (see table 3.4). This relatively high benefit value primarily reflects the relatively large average size of households that contain children (3.5 persons).

Children who received food stamps in summer 1990 tended to live in households headed by single parents and tended to receive AFDC benefits in addition to food stamp benefits. Of all FSP households with children, 68 percent were headed by a single parent, representing almost half (41 percent) of all FSP households. Since the AFDC program serves predominantly single-parent families, a large percentage (77 percent) of these single-parent FSP households also received AFDC. Nearly a fifth (18 percent) of the single-parent FSP households received earnings.

A substantial proportion (17 percent) of FSP households contained multiple adults and children, representing 28 percent of all FSP households with children.⁶ The characteristics of multiple-adult households with children varied considerably from those of single-parent households. The average monthly food stamp benefit for single-parent households with children was lower than that of

³This comparison assumes that program participants value their food stamp benefits at face value.

⁴Elderly persons and disabled persons represent two distinct groups. Elderly persons are persons age 60 years or older. Disabled persons are persons under age 60 who receive SSI.

⁵For more information on FSP households with children, see appendix tables A-50 through A-52.

⁶In multiple-adult households with children, the second adult may not necessarily be a parent. He or she may be an adult child of the head, a sibling, a grandparent, or even an unrelated member.

Table 3.2--Effect of food stamp benefits on the poverty status of food stamp households, summer 1990

Gross income as a percentage of poverty ^a	Distribution of households in relation to poverty line		Change in percentage points
	Based on cash only	Based on cash and food stamps	
50% or less	39%	13%	-26
51-100	53	72	20
101 or more	8	15	7
Number of households (in thousands) ^b	7,973	7,973	

^aDefined as the 1990 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see appendixes C and D).

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 3.3—Household composition and selected characteristics of participating households, summer 1990

Household type	All households		Households with earned income*		Households with Social Security		Households with AFDC		Households with General Assistance		Households with SSI	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Children^b												
Single-parent families	3,294	41.3	609	40.2	158	10.6	2,541	74.5	76	9.0	172	11.2
Multiple-parent families	1,372	17.2	609	40.2	166	11.1	657	19.3	86	10.1	198	12.8
Other ^c	198	2.5	19	1.2	9	0.6	80	2.3	0	0.1	3	0.2
Subtotal	4,864	61.0	1,236	81.7	333	22.3	3,278	96.1	162	19.2	374	24.2
Elderly^d												
Living alone	1,015	12.7	13	0.9	744	49.8	2	0.1	59	7.0	627	40.6
Not living alone	379	4.7	41	2.7	270	18.1	66	1.9	33	3.9	189	12.3
Subtotal	1,393	17.5	54	3.6	1,014	67.9	67	2.0	92	10.9	817	52.9
Disabled^e												
Living alone	347	4.3	15	1.0	102	6.9	1	0.0	30	3.5	347	22.5
Not living alone	361	4.8	43	2.8	79	5.3	260	7.6	22	2.5	381	24.7
Subtotal	728	9.1	58	3.8	181	12.1	261	7.7	51	6.1	728	47.1
Other households^f												
Single-person households	1,116	14.0	117	7.7	97	6.5	17	0.5	522	61.9	0	0.0
Multiple-person households	311	3.9	103	6.8	21	1.4	97	2.8	42	5.0	0	0.0
Subtotal	1,427	17.9	220	14.6	119	7.9	113	3.3	565	66.9	0	0.0
Total ^g	7,973	100.0	1,513	100.0	1,494	100.0	3,411	100.0	844	100.0	1,545	100.0

*Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^cHouseholds with all members age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^eHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^fHouseholds without children, or elderly, or disabled members.

^gThe sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 3.4--Average values of selected characteristics by household composition, summer 1990

Household type	Average gross monthly income (dollars)	Average net monthly income (dollars)	Average monthly FSP benefit (dollars)	Average household size (persons)
Children^a				
Single-parent families	465	250	188	3.1
Multiple-adult families	686	446	235	4.6
Other ^b	383	224	176	2.1
Subtotal	524	304	198	3.5
Elderly^c				
Living alone	412	218	38	1.0
Not living alone	612	412	104	2.6
Subtotal	466	271	56	1.4
Disabled^d				
Living alone	409	196	42	1.0
Not living alone	690	507	155	3.7
Subtotal	556	359	101	2.4
Other households^e				
Single-person households	198	57	83	1.0
Multiple-person households	375	186	145	2.2
Subtotal	236	85	97	1.3
All households	455	252	148	2.6

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^bHouseholds with all members age 17 or less.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with SSI income and no members age 60 or more.

^eHouseholds without children, or elderly, or disabled members.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

multiple-adult households with children (\$188 versus \$235) because of their smaller average household size (3.1 versus 4.6 persons); however, the average monthly per-person benefit was higher for persons in single-parent households with children compared with persons in multiple-adult households with children (\$61 versus \$52, respectively) because single-parent households were poorer. Single-parent households with children had substantially lower gross monthly incomes (\$465 versus \$686). Of all multiple-adult households with children, 44 percent received earnings. FSP households with children constituted 82 percent of all FSP households with earnings.

Elderly Persons⁷

In summer 1990, the FSP served 1.6 million elderly persons. FSP households containing elderly members represented 18 percent of all FSP households. These households received an average food stamp benefit of \$56 per month.

Elderly persons who received food stamps tended to live alone, and thus received relatively small food stamp benefits. In summer 1990, 73 percent of all FSP households with elderly members were single-person households. These single elderly participants received an average food stamp benefit of \$38 per month compared with \$104 in benefits for households with elderly persons not living alone. Elderly persons not living alone lived in households averaging 2.6 persons.

FSP households that contained elderly persons tended to receive SSI and Social Security income. In summer 1990, 59 percent of all FSP households with elderly members received SSI, 73 percent received Social Security, and 40 percent received both SSI and Social Security income. FSP households with elderly members represented the majority of FSP households with SSI and Social Security income (53 and 68 percent, respectively).

Disabled Persons⁸

In summer 1990, households that contained disabled persons represented 9 percent of all FSP households. By definition, households with disabled members receive SSI. In summer 1990, these households received an average monthly food stamp benefit of \$101.

Similar to households with elderly members, disabled persons who lived alone received a lower average monthly food stamp benefit than did households that contained disabled persons not living alone (\$42 compared with \$155). Approximately half of all FSP households that contained disabled persons were single-person households, while half were multiple-person households. Again, the difference in benefits between the two groups reflects differences in average household size. Disabled persons who did not live alone lived in households averaging 3.7 persons.

⁷For more information on FSP households with elderly persons, see appendix tables A-44 through A-46.

⁸Disabled persons are defined as persons who receive SSI, but are not elderly. The database cannot identify other disabled persons. For more information on FSP households with disabled persons, see appendix tables A-47 through A-49.

Other Households Served by the FSP

The FSP serves other needy households besides those that contain children, or elderly or disabled persons. In summer 1990, 18 percent of all FSP households contained one or more nonelderly, nondisabled adult. These households received an average food stamp benefit of \$97 per month. They tended to be single-person households (78 percent) and represented the majority (67 percent) of households that received General Assistance (GA).

Of all FSP households in summer 1990, 32 percent consisted of individuals who lived alone.⁹ Because these households only contained one individual, the average monthly food stamp benefit was only \$59. Most of these individuals (62 percent) were female, and 40 percent were elderly. Compared with all FSP households, a relatively small proportion of FSP participants living alone received earnings (6 percent), and a relatively high proportion had zero gross income (13 percent).

CHARACTERISTICS OF FSP PARTICIPANTS¹⁰

The FSP serves a broad spectrum of individuals. In summer 1990, nearly half were children, 40 percent were nonelderly adults (between ages 18 and 59), and 8 percent were elderly persons (the age of the remaining 2 percent of participants is unknown). Two-thirds of the children served by the FSP were school-age (between ages 5 and 17). Nearly three-fourths of both elderly and nonelderly adults were female. The majority (73 percent) of nonelderly adult FSP participants lived in households with children--half were single parents, and half lived in households containing at least one other adult and one child. Nearly 20 percent of all FSP participants were single adults.

All able-bodied nonelderly adult FSP participants are required to register for work and accept suitable employment as a condition of receiving food stamps. Some groups of individuals, including caretakers of small children and people working at least 30 hours a week, are exempt from these requirements. Similar to participants in the FSP, participants in other assistance programs are also often required to register for work. In summer 1990, 29 percent of all FSP household heads were registered for work under the FSP program or another assistance program.¹¹ Most (69 percent) FSP household heads were exempt from work registration requirements--15 percent were disabled, 15 percent were younger or older than the required ages, 25 percent were the caretakers of a child or an incapacitated adult, 8 percent were already employed full-time, and 7 percent were exempt for other reasons.

⁹The data discussed here on single-person households are presented in appendix A.

¹⁰For more information on FSP participants and household heads, see appendix tables A-33 through A-40.

¹¹Reports in this series prior to summer 1989 included as work registrants only persons required to register for work under the FSP; the summer 1989 report and this report include as work registrants FSP participants registered for work under the FSP and FSP participants registered for the Work Incentives (WIN) program or the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) program. For more information on the work registration status of FSP participants and household heads, see appendix tables A-39 and A-40.

CHANGES IN THE CHARACTERISTICS OF FSP HOUSEHOLDS¹²

The number of households receiving food stamps increased between summer 1989 and summer 1990 by 11 percent. During this time, the characteristics of FSP households changed as well.¹³ For example, the percentage of households containing elderly persons decreased from 20 to 18 percent, and the percentage of households containing children increased from 60 to 61 percent. The percentage of FSP households headed by a Hispanic person increased from 13 to 14 percent.

Compared with summer 1989, FSP households were poorer in summer 1990; average gross and net income per household and per person declined in real dollars (see table 3.5), and the percentage of households with no gross income increased slightly. In addition, the percentage of FSP households headed by a person employed full-time decreased from 8.1 percent in summer 1989 to 7.6 percent in summer 1990.

Between summer 1989 and summer 1990, both the average and maximum food stamp benefit increased in real dollars, by 8 and 4 percent, respectively (see table 3.5).¹⁴ The percentage of FSP households with the minimum benefit decreased from 8 percent to 6 percent.

¹²For more information on trends in the characteristics of FSP households, see appendix tables A-56 and A-57.

¹³This analysis is based on cross-sectional samples from summer 1989 and summer 1990. Thus, whether changes in the characteristics of FSP households reflect changes in the circumstances of continuing participants, of new participants, or both cannot be determined. In addition, we cannot disaggregate the impacts of FSP legislation, changes in the economy, or changes in other social programs.

¹⁴The maximum benefit was 100 percent of the TFP through 1988, 100.65 percent in 1989, 102.05 percent in 1990, and 103 percent in 1991 and thereafter.

Table 3.5--Average nominal and real values of selected characteristics,
summer 1989 and summer 1990

Selected characteristics	Nominal values			Real values	
	Summer 1989	Summer 1990	Percentage change	Summer 1990	Percentage change
Average gross income ^a					
Per household	\$443	\$455	+2.7	\$433	-2.4
Per person	171	175	+2.3	166	-2.7
Average net income ^a					
Per household	247	252	+2.0	240	-3.0
Per person	95	97	+2.1	92	-2.9
Average total deduction ^a	216	225	+4.2	214	-1.0
Average household benefit ^b	129	148	+14.7	139	+8.0
Maximum coupon benefit (for a family of four) ^b	300	331	+10.3	312	+3.9
Consumer Price Index					
All items	124.50	131.0	+5.2		
Food at home	124.85	132.6	+6.2		

^aReal values are in constant 1989 dollars adjusted by changes in the CPI-U for all items between summer 1989 and summer 1990 (5.2 percent).

^bReal values are in constant 1989 dollars adjusted by changes in the CPI-U for food at home between summer 1989 and summer 1990 (6.2 percent).

Source of CPI-U values: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. *Survey of Current Business*, vol. 70, no. 9. September 1990.

Source of nominal values: Summer 1989 and summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

CHAPTER 4: CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN IN FSP HOUSEHOLDS

Children constitute the age group with the highest poverty rate in the United States. Today, approximately one in five children lives in a family whose income is below the Federal Government poverty line. As shown in figure 4.1, the poverty rate for children, the elderly, and nonelderly adults all fell sharply during the 1960's. However, the poverty rate for children, and to a lesser extent, nonelderly adults, rose during the late 1970's and early 1980's. Starting in 1984, poverty rates for both groups began falling slowly. This trend is in sharp contrast with the trend in the poverty rate for elderly, which fell steadily throughout the 1980's.

Along with other USDA food assistance programs, the FSP helps meet the nutritional needs of poor children. This chapter elaborates on the food stamp assistance and the economic and demographic characteristics of individual children served by the FSP in an average month in *fiscal year 1990* (whereas chapter 3 and appendix A focus on the characteristics of *households* containing children in *summer 1990*). Specifically, the estimates presented in this chapter and in appendix B are monthly averages based on all 12 months of the Food Stamp Quality Control fiscal year 1990 database (a sample of approximately 63,000 households).

In fiscal year 1990, the FSP served an average of 10 million children each month. Almost all of these children lived in households whose gross monthly income was below the poverty line. The average monthly food stamp benefit received by households with children was \$202, and the average monthly per-person benefit for persons living in households with children was \$57. In this chapter, we describe children who received food stamps in fiscal year 1990 in detail.

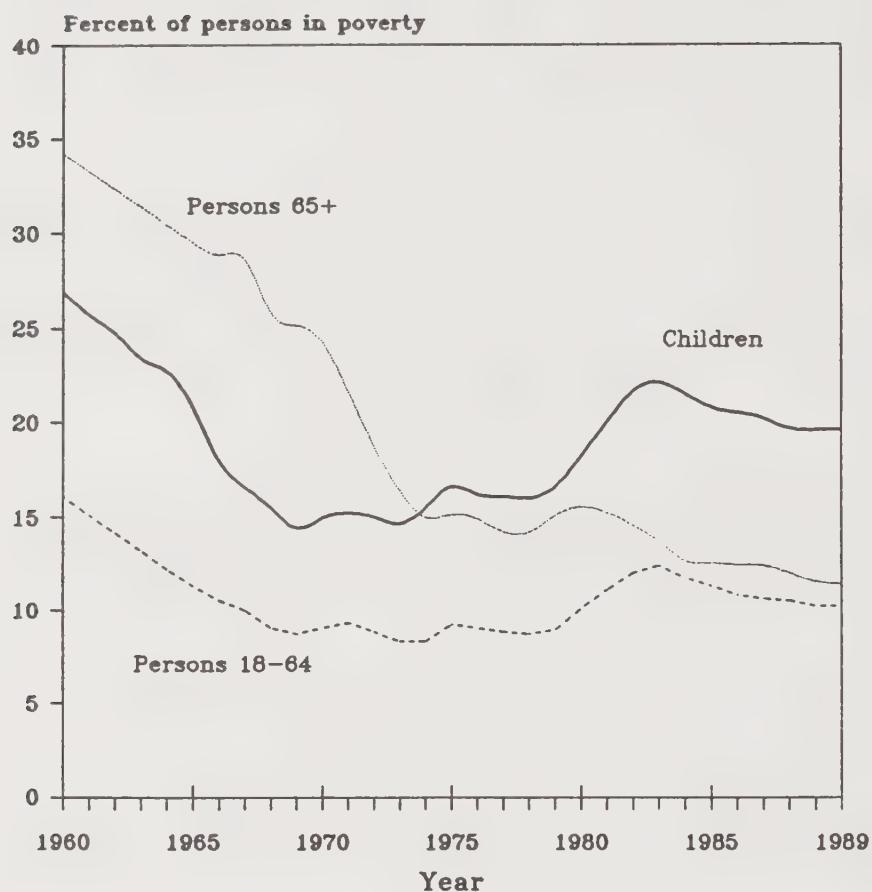
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN IN FSP HOUSEHOLDS

In an average month in fiscal year 1990, the majority of FSP children (76 percent) were younger than age 12, and 41 percent were younger than age 6 (see table 4.1 and appendix table B-1). One in 10 FSP children was an infant (age 1 or younger). The average age of all FSP children was 8 years. The distribution of FSP children by gender was split evenly between males and females.

The largest percentage of FSP children were black (38 percent). This group was followed closely by white children, who comprised 36 percent of the children receiving food stamps. Hispanic children comprised 17 percent of children receiving food stamps. Asian, Native American, and other children comprised 8 percent of FSP children.

Several findings emerge from an examination of FSP children along the several dimensions of age, sex, and race/ethnicity. First, Asian children were older than their white, black, Hispanic, and Native American counterparts (see appendix table B-2). The highest percentage of Asian children were between ages 6 and 11, while the highest percentage of children in other racial/ethnic groups were younger than age 6. The distributions of children by age were similar for males and females.

Figure 4.1
Poverty rates for persons by age
1960 - 1989



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce,
Bureau of the Census, Current Population
Reports, series P-60, no. 168. GOP 1989.

Table 4.1--Distribution of children participating in the Food Stamp Program
by age, gender, and race/ethnicity, 1990

Characteristic	Number of children ^a (thousands)	Percent of children
Age		
5 or less	4,117	40.7
6-11	3,551	35.1
12-17	2,459	24.3
Gender		
Female	4,990	49.3
Male	5,133	50.7
Unknown	4	0.1
Race/Ethnicity		
White	3,675	36.3
Black	3,881	38.3
Hispanic	1,748	17.3
Other	822	8.1
Total^b	10,127	100.0

^aChildren are persons age 17 or less.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

FSP households with children contained, on average, 3.5 persons (see appendix table B-3). However, looking at household size from the *individual child's* perspective, the data yield a different story. Because larger households tend to contain more children than smaller households, the typical food stamp child lived in a household with 4.3 persons. This difference between households and children is further illustrated by examining specific household sizes. For example, more than half of all households with children had two or three members. However, less than 40 percent of children lived in households with only two or three persons. Over 63 percent of all children lived in households with four or more persons, and 19 percent lived in households with six or more persons.¹

The majority of children (63 percent) lived in households headed by single females, and only 2 percent lived in households headed by single males (see appendix table B-4). A substantial proportion of children (32 percent) lived in households with two or more adults. The average number of adults was 1.5.

THE POVERTY AND INCOME OF CHILDREN IN THE FSP

In fiscal year 1990, all children served by the FSP lived in households that, according to Federal Government poverty guidelines, were poor or near poor. Some of these children lived in households that did not receive income, but most lived in households that obtained income from such sources as earnings and public assistance programs.

Food stamps significantly increased the purchasing power of the households in which FSP children lived, helping them to acquire and maintain nutritious diets. To estimate the impact of food stamps on the poverty status of children, we examined the distribution of children served by the FSP according to two measures of household gross monthly income--one that does not include food stamps in the gross monthly income amount (referred to as the *current measure*) and one that does include food stamps in the gross monthly income amount (referred to as the *alternative measure*).² Under the current measure of gross monthly income, all but 0.2 percent of the children served by the FSP lived in households whose gross monthly income was less than or equal to 130 percent of the poverty line, 94 percent were less than or equal to 100 percent of the poverty line, and 46 percent were less than or equal to 50 percent of the poverty line (see table 4.2 and appendix table B-5). Under the alternative measure of gross income, food stamps moved 7 percent of all children above the poverty line (see table 4.3). Food stamp benefits had an even greater impact on the poorest children, moving 31 percent above 50 percent of the poverty line.

The characteristics of children served by the FSP vary by poverty status. In general, poorer FSP children (those who lived in households whose gross monthly income was less than 51 percent of the poverty line) were younger, black, lived in households headed by single parents, received AFDC, and lived in households that received a relatively high FSP benefit.

¹The average size of FSP households with children is computed by summing the household size of all *households* with children and dividing this by the number of households with children. The size of a household in which the average FSP child lives is computed by summing, for each *child*, the size of the household in which the child lives, and dividing by the number of children. The first computation counts each household once. The second computation will count many households several times, as larger households will contain more than one child.

²This comparison assumes that program participants value their food stamp benefits at face value.

Table 4.2--Distribution of children participating in the Food Stamp Program by the poverty line, 1990

Gross income as a percentage of poverty ^a	Number of children ^b (thousands)	Percent of children
50% or less	4,616	45.6
51-100	4,860	47.9
101 or more	651	6.4
Total^c	10,127	100.0

^aDefined as the 1990 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see appendixes C and D).

^bChildren are persons age 17 or less.

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 4.3--Effect of food stamp benefits on the poverty status of food stamp children, 1990

Gross income as a percentage of poverty ^a	Distribution of households in relation to poverty line		Change in percentage points
	Based on cash only	Based on cash and food stamps	
50% or less	46%	8%	-37
51-100	48	79	31
101 or more	6	13	7
Total^a	10,127	10,127	

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

In particular, as shown in appendix table B-6, 51 percent of all children who lived in households headed by single females lived in households whose gross monthly income was less than or equal to half of the poverty line. Only 40 percent of children who lived in single male-headed households lived in households this poor. Children who lived in households containing both male and female adults were more likely to live in households in the middle poverty category--55 percent lived in households whose gross monthly income was between 51 and 100 percent of the poverty line.

About 42 percent of white FSP children lived in households whose gross monthly income was less than or equal to half the poverty line. In contrast, 56 percent of black FSP children lived in such households. Among Hispanic children, 37 percent lived in households that poor.

The majority of children who lived in households with earnings lived in households whose gross monthly income was between 51 and 100 percent of the poverty line. About half of the children who received AFDC lived in poorer households. Since FSP benefits are based on income, poorer children received higher benefits as a percentage of the maximum compared with children who were not as poor.

AFDC represents a major source of income for children who receive food stamps. In 1990, two-thirds of all children lived in households that received AFDC income, with an average household AFDC benefit of \$394 per month (see appendix table B-7). A small proportion (4 percent) of FSP children lived in households with no gross income. About 27 percent of FSP children lived in households with earnings. The average earnings for these households was \$618 per month. Since GA, SSI, and Social Security are designed to assist adults rather than children, a small proportion of FSP children lived in households with these income sources.

FSP DEDUCTIONS

The FSP allows deductions for shelter expenses, dependent-care expenses, medical expenses, and earnings. In fiscal year 1990, the majority of children lived in households entitled to an excess shelter expense deduction, while a smaller proportion lived in households entitled to the dependent-care deduction, the earned income deduction, or the medical deduction.

The excess shelter expense deduction is available to all households whose shelter costs exceed 50 percent of their countable income after all other potential deductions are subtracted from gross income, subject to a cap. About two-thirds (64 percent) of FSP children lived in households entitled to an excess shelter expense deduction. The average excess shelter expense deduction as a percentage of the shelter deduction cap was 45 percent (see appendix table B-8). However, 26 percent of children lived in households whose excess shelter expense deductions equalled the cap. Therefore, at least one-quarter of FSP children were affected by the deduction cap.

In determining eligibility and benefits, the FSP takes into account expenses incurred for caring for children and other dependents while household members work, seek employment, or go to school. The maximum dependent-care deduction for households with dependents was \$160 per dependent per month in fiscal year 1990. Among FSP children, 4 percent lived in households entitled to a dependent-care deduction based on their households' reported dependent-care expenses (see table 4.4). Among households with children that were entitled to a dependent-care deduction in fiscal year 1990, the youngest child in 39 percent of these households was younger than age 3, and the youngest child in 45 percent of these households was between the ages of 3 and 6 (see appendix table B-9). The average age of children in households entitled to the dependent-care deduction was 5 years compared with an average age of 7 years among all FSP children. Since younger children are more

Table 4.4--Distribution of children in food stamp households claiming deductions,^a 1990

Type of deduction	Number of children ^b (thousands)	Percent of children
Earned income ^c	2,765	27.3
Dependent care ^d	411	4.1
Shelter ^e	6,485	64.0
Medical ^f	23	0.2
Total^g	10,127	100.0

^aDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bChildren are persons age 17 or less.

^cEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^dSubject to a limit of \$160 per dependent per month (see appendix E).

^eSubject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or older (see appendix E).

^fAvailable only to households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

^gIncludes the standard deduction for all households (see appendix E). Due to households claiming more than one deduction or none at all, the sum of the individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

likely to need care and not to be in school or caring for themselves, it follows that households entitled to the dependent-care deduction contained younger children.

Some FSP households are also entitled to an earned income deduction and a medical deduction. The earned income deduction is equal to 20 percent of earnings. Since 27 percent of FSP children lived in households with earnings, the same percentage of children lived in households entitled to an earned income deduction. The medical deduction is available only to households that contain elderly or disabled members; therefore, very few FSP children (0.2 percent) lived in households entitled to a medical deduction.

FSP ASSISTANCE

In fiscal year 1990, households with children received an average monthly FSP benefit of \$202 and an average per person benefit of \$57. The average household benefit was large compared with other types of households, reflecting the relatively large size of households with children--3.5 persons. Over 75 percent of FSP children lived in households that received benefits of at least half of the maximum benefit for their household size, income, and location (see appendix table B-10). Over 11 percent of the children lived in households with the maximum food stamp benefit.

FSP CHILDREN BY STATE

Of all FSP participants in an average month in fiscal year 1990, about half were children. However, children as a percentage of all participants varied by State. In fiscal year 1990, children as a percentage of participants in a given State ranged from 61.4 percent in California to 41.4 percent in West Virginia (appendix table B-11). Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, New Jersey, South Carolina, Utah, and Wisconsin also contained a large percentage of children among their food stamp participants.

The distribution of FSP households with children also varied by State. Of all 8 million FSP households, 60 percent contained children. Among the States, however, households with children as a percentage of all FSP households in the State ranged from 83 percent in California to 48 percent in Oregon. Other States that contained a large percentage of households with children include Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Texas, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

APPENDIX A

DETAILED TABLES OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

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Appendix Table A-1--Aggregate summer 1990 participation totals

Area	Number of households (thousands)	Number of people (thousands)	Value of benefits (thousands)
United States	7,973	20,396	\$1,188,808
Continental U.S.	7,933	20,292	1,179,998
Alaska and Hawaii	41	104	8,811
Outlying Areas*	7	25	2,243
Total	7,981	20,422	\$1,191,051

*Includes participants in Guam and the Virgin Islands.

Source: Food Stamp Program Integrated Information System.

Appendix Table A-2--Average values of selected characteristics by household composition

	All households	Households with elderly ^a	Households with disabled ^b	Households with children ^c
Gross monthly income (dollars)	455	466	556	524
Net monthly income (dollars)	252	271	359	304
Total deduction ^d (dollars)	225	204	200	236
Countable resources ^e (dollars)	82	206	81	54
Monthly benefit (dollars)	148	56	101	198
Household size (persons)	2.6	1.4	2.4	3.5
Certification period (months)	9.6	11.4	10.3	9.2

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dIncludes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^eThe resource limit for most households was \$2,000. However, households with at least one member age 60 or older were allowed up to \$3,000.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-3--Average values of selected characteristics by income source

	All households	Households with earned income ^a	Households with AFDC	Households with General Assistance	Households with SSI	Households with Social Security
Gross monthly income (dollars)	455	715	486	328	505	508
Net monthly income (dollars)	252	404	281	125	311	311
Total deduction^b (dollars)	225	320	210	226	196	201
Countable resources (dollars)	82	108	34	27	138	207
Monthly benefit (dollars)	148	168	195	112	74	71
Household size (persons)	2.6	3.5	3.3	1.6	1.9	1.8
Certification period (months)	9.6	8.8	9.6	10.0	11.1	11.1

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^bIncludes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-4--Distribution of participating households
with selected characteristics

	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households*
Zero gross income	590	7.4
Zero net income	1,516	19.0
Minimum benefit ^b	439	5.5
Elderly ^c	1,393	17.5
Children ^d	4,864	61.0
School-age children ^e	3,682	46.2
Preschool-age children ^f	2,581	32.4
Disabled ^g	728	9.1

*Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

^bMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- or two-person households.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^fHouseholds with at least one member less than age 5.

^gHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-5--Distribution of participating households by gross and net monthly income

Amount of monthly income	Gross income		Net income	
	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	590	7.4	1,516	19.0
\$1-99	133	1.7	1,083	13.6
100-199	539	6.8	1,246	15.6
200-299	926	11.6	1,430	17.9
300-399	1,338	16.8	830	10.4
400-499	1,505	18.9	739	9.3
500-599	982	12.3	403	5.1
600-699	743	9.3	268	3.4
700-799	351	4.4	210	2.6
800-899	311	3.9	109	1.4
900-999	234	2.9	54	0.7
1000+	321	4.0	85	1.1
Total*	7,973	100.0	7,973	100.0

Average gross income = \$455

Average net income = \$252

*Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-6--Distribution of participating households by gross monthly income and household size

Gross monthly income	Household size								Number of households ^a (thousands)	Percent of all households ^a
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
None	335	91	83	44	29	5	1	2	590	7.4
\$1-99	71	38	9	9	6	1	0	--	133	1.7
100-199	236	124	145	22	8	3	0	--	539	6.8
200-299	282	328	172	80	43	11	4	5	926	11.6
300-399	554	286	262	165	47	14	8	3	1,338	16.8
400-499	842	265	175	126	60	24	4	10	1,505	18.9
500-599	182	371	212	121	58	27	10	3	982	12.3
600-699	39	166	281	128	90	24	8	8	743	9.3
700-799	7	94	108	53	62	13	4	10	351	4.4
800-899	1	38	66	120	54	15	7	9	311	3.9
900-999	--	4	61	73	73	16	4	3	234	2.9
1000+	0	2	23	91	83	48	37	35	321	4.0
Number of households ^a	2,547	1,806	1,597	1,032	612	202	88	88	7,973	100.0
Percent of all households ^a	31.9	22.7	20.0	12.9	7.7	2.5	1.1	1.1	100.0	
Average gross income	\$314	\$411	\$476	\$587	\$667	\$746	\$873	\$974	\$455	

^aDue to rounding, the sum of the individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-7--Distribution of participating households by net monthly income and household size

Net monthly income	Household size								Number of households ^a (thousands)	Percent of all households ^a
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
None	779	333	232	93	55	17	5	3	1,516	19.0
\$1-99	396	302	261	81	22	8	7	5	1,083	13.6
100-199	423	343	234	160	68	11	3	3	1,246	15.6
200-299	655	281	258	151	56	21	8	1	1,430	17.9
300-399	216	182	162	131	83	34	9	13	830	10.4
400-499	71	255	199	92	84	21	8	9	739	9.3
500-599	5	75	133	101	56	23	3	6	403	5.1
600-699	1	27	81	75	62	9	3	10	268	3.4
700-799	0	6	33	93	43	19	12	4	210	2.6
800-899	0	1	5	32	54	8	7	3	109	1.4
900-999	--	1	0	21	15	11	4	2	54	0.7
1000+	0	--	--	1	13	20	20	30	85	1.1
Number of households^a	2,547	1,806	1,597	1,032	612	202	88	88	7,973	100.0
Percent of all households^a	31.9	22.7	20.0	12.9	7.7	2.5	1.1	1.1	100.0	
Average net income	\$142	\$207	\$257	\$361	\$440	\$501	\$623	\$727	\$252	

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-8--Distribution of participating households by income source

Amount of monthly income from specified source	Earned income ^a		Social Security		AFDC or General Assistance		SSI		Other income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
None	6,460	81.0	6,480	81.3	3,778	47.4	6,429	80.6	6,733	84.4
\$1-99	128	1.6	31	0.4	229	2.9	337	4.2	563	7.1
100-199	140	1.8	121	1.5	663	8.3	273	3.4	193	2.4
200-299	161	2.0	343	4.3	936	11.7	150	1.9	146	1.8
300-399	126	1.6	406	5.1	864	10.8	530	6.7	137	1.7
400-499	137	1.7	305	3.8	498	6.2	184	2.3	45	0.6
500-599	136	1.7	172	2.2	481	6.0	33	0.4	70	0.9
600-699	168	2.1	67	0.8	317	4.0	11	0.1	44	0.5
700-799	127	1.6	33	0.4	64	0.8	20	0.2	20	0.3
800-899	97	1.2	6	0.1	93	1.2	3	0.0	14	0.2
900-999	90	1.1	7	0.1	31	0.4	2	0.0	6	0.1
1000+	204	2.6	3	0.0	20	0.3	0	0.0	4	0.0
<hr/>										
Number of households ^b	7,973	100.0	7,973	100.0	7,973	100.0	7,973	100.0	7,973	100.0
Households with income	1,513	19.0	1,494	18.7	4,195	52.6	1,545	19.4	583	7.3
Average amount of income ^c	578		374		363		273		150	
Average gross income ^c	715		508		452		505		532	

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

^cFor households with income from specified source.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-9--Distribution of participating households, average income, average benefit, and average household size by selected income sources

Income source	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households	Average income amount ^a Gross	Average income amount ^a From source	Average benefit ^a	Average household size
Earned Income:						
Wages and salaries	1,405	17.6	\$733	\$599	\$168	3.5
Self-employment	85	1.1	490	233	188	3.1
Earned income tax credit	0	0.0	--	--	--	--
Other earned income	39	0.5	567	365	127	2.5
Unearned Income:						
Aid to Families with Dependent Children	3,411	42.8	486	390	195	3.3
Household General Assistance	844	10.6	328	229	112	1.6
Supplemental Security Income	1,544	19.4	505	273	74	1.9
Social Security	1,494	18.7	508	374	71	1.8
Household unemployment income	126	1.6	666	431	157	3.5
Veterans' benefits	163	2.0	541	220	72	1.9
Workers' compensation	25	0.3	751	549	160	4.0
Other government benefits	93	1.2	391	118	181	2.9
Household contributions	263	3.3	496	166	187	3.2
Household deemed income	0	0.0	712	500	213	5.0
Educational loans	45	0.6	558	160	132	2.7
Other unearned income	583	7.3	532	150	129	2.6
No Income:	589	7.4	0	0	172	1.9
Total^b	7,973	100.0	455		148	2.6

^aAverage over households with income from specified source.

^bThe sum of individual income sources does not add to the total because households can receive income from more than one source.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-10—Distribution of participating households by gross monthly income as a percentage of the poverty line for all households, households with elderly or disabled, and households with children

Gross income as a percentage of the poverty line ^a	All households		Households with elderly ^b		Households with elderly or disabled ^c		Households with children ^d	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
25% or less	1,192	14.9	33	2.4	37	1.7	687	14.1
26-50	1,916	24.0	55	4.0	104	4.9	1,462	30.1
51-75	1,852	23.2	225	16.1	420	19.8	1,322	27.2
76-100	2,344	29.4	885	63.5	1,302	61.4	1,043	21.4
101-125	590	7.4	177	12.7	235	11.1	305	6.3
126-130	41	0.5	2	0.2	3	0.2	29	0.6
131-150	31	0.4	15	1.1	17	0.8	13	0.3
151 or more	8	0.1	1	0.1	3	0.1	5	0.1
Total^e	7,973	100.0	1,393	100.0	2,121	100.0	4,864	100.0

^aDefined as the 1990 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see appendixes C and D).

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-11--Distribution of participating households by net monthly income as a percentage of the poverty line for all households, households with elderly or disabled, and households with children

Net income as a percentage of the poverty line ^a	All households		Households with elderly ^b		Households with elderly or disabled ^c		Households with children ^d	
	Number	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
25 ^e or less	3,700	46.4	281	20.2	420	19.8	2,220	45.6
26-50	2,137	26.8	430	30.9	680	32.0	1,421	29.2
51-75	1,694	21.2	552	39.6	818	38.6	965	19.8
76-100	425	5.3	122	8.8	192	9.0	254	5.2
101-125	15	0.2	7	0.5	9	0.4	4	0.1
126-130	1	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0
131-150	1	0.0	--	--	0	0.0	0	0.0
151 or more	1	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0	--	--
Total^f	7,973	100.0	1,393	100.0	2,121	100.0	4,864	100.0

^aDefined as the 1990 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see appendixes C and D).

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-12--Distribution of participating households claiming deductions and value of deductions claimed^a

Type of deduction	Number of households claiming deduction (thousands)	Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction Over claiming households	Average amount of deduction Over all households
Earned income ^b	1,511	19.0	\$116	\$22
Dependent care ^c	206	2.6	126	3
Shelter ^d	5,395	67.7	127	86
Medical ^e	205	2.6	83	2
Total^f	7,973	100.0	225	225

^aDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^cSubject to a limit of \$160 per dependent per month (see appendix E).

^dSubject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix E).

^eAvailable only to households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

^fIncludes the standard deduction for all households (see appendix E). Due to households claiming more than one deduction or none at all, the sum of the individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-13--Distribution of participating households by amount of total deduction

Amount of total deduction ^a	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
\$101-150	2,546	31.9
151-200	1,004	12.6
201-250	1,055	13.2
251-300	2,174	27.3
300+	1,194	15.0
Total^b	7,973	100.0

Average deduction for claiming households = \$225

^aIncludes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-14--Average total deduction* for all participating households by gross monthly income and household size

Gross monthly income	Household size								Average total deduction
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
None	160	198	209	231	209	244	205	205	182
\$1-99	168	190	253	235	201	263	289	--	187
100-199	208	198	187	217	179	240	310	--	200
200-299	233	206	219	197	184	237	234	190	215
300-399	214	222	222	216	206	233	282	236	218
400-499	207	230	237	220	220	203	192	131	216
500-599	221	219	249	241	203	200	219	187	227
600-699	264	230	229	232	216	223	276	207	230
700-799	234	272	251	235	249	253	225	172	251
800-899	175	324	283	209	254	220	184	229	247
900-999	--	328	387	297	214	244	193	182	288
1000+	183	388	364	374	382	356	290	345	359
Average total deduction	206	222	237	241	240	255	256	251	225

*Includes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-15--Distribution of participating households claiming earned income deduction and value of deduction claimed*

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households
Elderly ^b	1,393	54	3.9	\$54	\$2
Children ^c	4,864	1,235	25.4	127	32
Disabled ^d	728	58	8.0	77	6
Earned income ^e	1,513	1,511	99.9	116	116
Public assistance ^f	4,195	388	9.3	73	7
Total^g	7,973	1,511	19.0	116	22

*Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with SSI income and no member is age 60 or more.

^eEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^fPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children and General Assistance.

^gThe sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-16--Distribution of participating households
by amount of earned income deduction^a

Amount of earned income deduction ^a	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	6,462	81.0
\$1-50	357	4.5
51-100	344	4.3
101-150	381	4.8
151-200	229	2.9
201-250	125	1.6
251-300	46	0.6
300+	30	0.4
Total^b	7,973	100.0

Average earned income deduction for claiming earned income households = \$116

^aDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-17--Distribution of participating households claiming dependent-care deduction^a and value of deduction claimed^b

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of all households	Percent with the maximum deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households
Elderly ^c	1,393	1	0.1	\$100	\$0
Children ^d	4,864	206	4.2	\$126	\$5
Disabled ^e	728	2	0.2	\$68	\$0
Earned income ^f	1,513	186	12.3	\$132	\$16
Public assistance ^g	4,195	68	1.6	\$126	\$2
Total^h	7,973	206	2.6	\$126	\$3
					9.6
					0.2

^aSubject to a limit of \$160 per dependent per month (see appendix E).

^bDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^fEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^gPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children and General Assistance.

^hThe sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-18--Distribution of participating households by amount of dependent-care deduction^a

Amount of dependent care deduction ^b	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	7,768	97.4
\$1-50	27	0.3
51-100	54	0.7
101-150	39	0.5
151-200	65	0.8
200+	21	0.3
Total^c	7,973	100.0
Average dependent care deduction for claiming households = \$126		

^aDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bSubject to a limit of \$160 per dependent per month (see appendix E).

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-19--Distribution of participating households claiming excess shelter deduction^a and value of deduction claimed^b

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households
Elderly ^c	1,393	909	65.2	\$120	\$78
Children ^d	4,864	3,284	67.5	127	86
Disabled ^e	728	452	62.1	130	81
Earned income ^f	1,513	950	62.8	120	75
Public assistance ^g	4,195	3,001	71.5	129	92
Total^h	7,973	5,395	67.7	127	86

^aSubject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix E).

^bDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^fEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^gPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children and General Assistance.

^hThe sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-20--Distribution of participating households by amount of excess shelter deduction^a

Amount of excess shelter deduction ^b	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	2,578	32.3
\$1-50	916	11.5
51-100	1,038	13.0
101-150	1,003	12.6
151-176	408	5.1
177	1,693	21.2
178+	338	4.2
Total^c	7,973	100.0

Average excess shelter deduction for claiming households = \$127

^aDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bSubject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix E).

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-21--Distribution of participating households by the value of shelter deduction^a

Value of shelter deduction ^b	All households		Households with elderly ^c		Households with children ^d		Households with disabled ^e		Households with earned income ^f		Households with public assistance ^g	
	Number	Percent	(thousands)	Number	Percent	(thousands)	Number	Percent	(thousands)	Number	Percent	(thousands)
None	2,578	32.3	484	34.8	1,580	32.5	276	37.9	563	37.2	1,194	28.5
Less than cap	3,367	42.2	688	49.4	1,940	39.9	337	46.3	601	39.7	1,779	42.4
Equal to cap	1,694	21.2	1	0.1	1,303	26.8	1	0.1	337	22.3	1,160	27.6
Greater than cap	334	4.2	220	15.8	41	0.8	114	15.7	12	0.8	62	1.5
Total ^h	7,973	100.0	1,393	100.0	4,864	100.0	728	100.0	1,513	100.0	4,195	100.0

^aDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bSubject to a limit unless at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix E).

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^fEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^gPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children and General Assistance.

^hDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-22--Distribution of participating households claiming medical deduction and value of deduction claimed^a

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households
Elderly ^b	1,393	200	14.3	\$83	\$12
Children ^c	4,864	12	0.2	108	0
Disabled ^d	728	5	0.7	91	1
Earned income ^e	1,513	6	0.4	105	0
Public assistance ^f	4,195	5	0.1	57	0
Total^g	7,973	205	2.6	83	2

^aAvailable only to households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more. Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^eEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^fPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children and General Assistance.

^gThe sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-23--Distribution of participating households by amount of medical deduction^a for all households, households with elderly, and households with disabled

Amount of medical deduction ^a	All households		Households with elderly ^b		Households with disabled ^c	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
None	7,768	97.4	1,193	85.7	723	99.3
\$1-25	45	0.6	43	3.1	3	0.4
26-50	39	0.5	39	2.8	0	0.0
51-75	36	0.5	36	2.6	0	0.1
76-100	27	0.3	25	1.8	2	0.2
101-150	27	0.3	27	1.9	0	0.0
151-200	17	0.2	17	1.2	0	0.0
201-300	10	0.1	10	0.7	0	0.0
300+	4	0.1	3	0.2	1	0.1
Total^d	7,973	100.0	1,393	100.0	728	100.0

Average medical deduction for claiming households = \$83

^aAvailable only to households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more. Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^dDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-24--Distribution of participating households by amount of monthly food stamp benefit^a

Amount of monthly benefit ^a	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
\$10 or less	440	5.5
11-25	359	4.5
26-50	674	8.4
51-75	562	7.0
76-100	1,475	18.5
101-150	995	12.5
151-200	1,311	16.4
201-300	1,515	19.0
301 or more	643	8.1
Total^b	7,973	100.0
Average monthly food stamp benefit = \$148		

^aThe maximum monthly benefit varies by area (see appendix F).

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-25--Average monthly food stamp benefit by gross monthly income and household size

Gross monthly income	Household size								Average food stamp benefit
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
	(dollars)								
None	99	183	260	333	394	472	521	632	172
\$1-99	99	182	264	331	393	472	521	--	165
100-199	96	177	252	330	385	468	521	--	173
200-299	87	165	242	312	366	462	511	588	185
300-399	54	143	222	286	346	431	498	679	153
400-499	33	117	196	260	324	394	444	520	107
500-599	20	82	170	238	288	370	421	536	133
600-699	19	59	130	207	262	344	403	512	152
700-799	13	45	110	180	245	324	364	489	147
800-899	10	38	92	143	214	285	325	463	151
900-999	--	24	93	139	172	258	303	409	150
1000+	10	18	56	91	147	198	225	308	158
Average benefit per household	59	120	183	223	261	324	337	432	148

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-26--Distribution of households by FSP benefit
as a percentage of maximum benefit and household poverty status

Gross income as a percentage of the poverty line ^a	Percent of maximum benefit													
	All households (000s) Percent		Minimum ^b (000s) Percent		<25% ^c (000s) Percent		25 - 50% (000s) Percent		51 - 75% (000s) Percent		76 - 99% (000s) Percent		Maximum ^d (000s) Percent	
All households^e														
Total	7,973	100.0	439	100.0	571	100.0	1,523	100.0	1,910	100.0	2,014	100.0	1,516	100.0
No income	592	7.4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	592	39.1
1 - 50	2,516	31.6	--	--	--	--	--	--	312	16.3	1,379	68.5	825	54.4
51 - 100	4,195	52.6	257	58.6	382	67.0	1,280	84.0	1,552	81.3	625	31.0	98	6.5
101 - 130	631	7.9	163	37.0	177	1.0	236	15.5	45	2.3	10	0.5	1	0.1
131+	39	0.5	19	4.4	12	2.1	7	0.4	1	0.1	--	--	--	--
Households with an elderly member^f														
Total	1,393	100.0	310	100.0	270	100.0	370	100.0	222	100.0	116	100.0	104	100.0
No income	18	1.3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18	16.9
1 - 50	71	5.1	--	--	--	--	--	--	14	6.3	15	12.9	42	40.4
51 - 100	1,109	79.6	205	66.2	228	84.5	336	90.6	199	89.5	98	84.1	44	41.9
101 - 130	179	12.8	97	31.1	39	14.3	31	8.4	8	3.7	4	3.0	1	0.8
131+	16	1.2	8	2.6	3	1.1	4	1.0	1	0.5	--	--	--	--
Households with earned income^g														
Total	1,513	100.0	31	100.0	116	100.0	430	100.0	503	100.0	281	100.0	152	100.0
No income	0	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1 - 50	281	18.6	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	4.0	131	46.5	131	86.0
51 - 100	867	57.3	2	6.5	7	6.1	243	56.4	449	89.2	145	51.8	21	13.8
101 - 130	345	22.8	21	67.7	100	86.3	185	42.9	34	6.8	5	1.8	0	0.1
131	20	1.3	8	25.8	9	7.6	3	0.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Households with children^h														
Total	4,864	100.0	17	100.0	183	100.0	959	100.0	1,484	100.0	1,573	100.0	648	100.0
No income	229	4.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	229	35.3
1 - 50	1,920	39.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	263	17.8	1,246	79.2	411	63.4
51 - 100	2,365	48.6	0	1.0	62	33.9	785	81.9	1,186	79.9	322	20.5	9	1.4
101 - 130	333	6.9	11	66.4	112	61.3	171	17.8	34	2.3	4	0.3	--	--
131+	17	0.4	6	32.7	9	4.8	3	0.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Households with AFDC income														
Total	3,411	100.0	15	100.0	79	100.0	635	100.0	1,049	100.0	1,315	100.0	318	100.0
No income	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1 - 50	1,632	47.9	--	--	--	--	--	--	233	22.2	1,083	82.4	316	99.3
51 - 100	1,692	49.6	1	5.8	48	60.4	608	95.9	803	76.6	230	17.5	2	0.7
101 - 130	81	2.4	12	78.7	31	39.3	24	3.8	13	1.2	2	0.1	--	--
131+	5	0.1	2	15.5	0	0.3	2	0.4	--	--	--	--	--	--

^aDefined as the 1990 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see appendixes C and D).

^bMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

^cThis category does not include households with the minimum benefit.

^dThe value of the maximum benefit varies depending on region (see appendix F).

^eDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

^fHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^gEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income and earned income tax credit.

^hHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

-- No households in this category.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-27--Distribution of participating households by total countable resources
for all households and households with elderly or disabled

Value of countable resources ^a	All households		Households with elderly ^b		Households with elderly or disabled ^c	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
None	6,156	77.2	854	61.3	1,411	66.5
\$1-500	1,423	17.9	346	24.9	483	22.8
501-1,000	222	2.8	100	7.2	120	5.7
1,001-1,500	81	1.0	48	3.4	56	2.6
1,501-1,750	41	0.5	19	1.4	23	1.1
1,751-2,000	20	0.2	8	0.6	8	0.4
2,001-3,000	19	0.2	14	1.0	15	0.7
Unknown	11	0.1	4	0.3	5	0.2
Total^d	7,973	100.0	1,393	100.0	2,121	100.0

Average value of countable resources for all households = \$82

Average value of countable resources for elderly households = \$206

Average value of countable resources for elderly or disabled households = \$163

^aDefined as cash on hand, assets which can be easily converted to cash, such as money in checking or savings accounts, savings certificates, stocks or bonds, and lump sum payments. They also include some nonliquid assets, although the family home, one or more family vehicles if necessary to transport disabled persons or to produce income, and business tools or property are not counted.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

^dDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-28-Distribution of participating households
by type of most recent action and expedited service

Most recent action	Number of households (thousands)			Percent		
	New entrants ^a	Other households	Total	New entrants	Other households	Total
Initial certification ^b	388	2,022	2,410	100.0	26.7	30.2
Expedited service ^c	108	176	284	27.8	2.3	3.6
No expedited service	280	1,846	2,126	72.2	24.3	26.7
Recertification	0	5,563	5,563	0.0	73.3	69.8
Expedited service	0	74	74	0.0	1.0	0.9
No expedited service	0	5,490	5,490	0.0	72.4	68.9
Total^d	388	7,586	7,973	100.0	100.0	100.0

^aIncludes households newly certified in July or August, 1990.

^bIncludes both households certified for the first time and previously certified households who have not received benefits for at least 30 days.

^cHouseholds which initially received expedited service for the certification period in effect in July or August 1990.

^dDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-29—Distribution of participating households by length of certification period

Months in certification period	All households		Households with elderly ^a		Households with earnings ^b		Households with children ^c		Households with disabled ^d		Households with AFDC income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
1	58	0.7	3	0.2	15	1.0	26	0.5	0	0.1	10	0.3
2	53	0.7	0	0.0	14	0.9	24	0.5	2	0.3	4	0.1
3	344	4.3	15	1.1	122	8.0	201	4.1	9	1.2	54	1.6
4	167	2.1	13	1.0	37	2.5	111	2.3	7	0.9	57	1.7
5	115	1.4	19	1.4	15	1.0	72	1.5	7	1.0	59	1.7
6	1,741	21.8	101	7.3	426	28.1	1,321	27.2	146	20.1	863	25.3
7	340	4.3	12	0.8	50	3.3	269	5.5	15	2.0	222	6.5
8	171	2.1	11	0.8	36	2.4	130	2.7	15	2.0	93	2.7
9	90	1.1	16	1.1	12	0.8	54	1.1	10	1.4	41	1.2
10	106	1.3	13	1.0	21	1.4	66	1.3	7	1.0	49	1.4
11	172	2.2	25	1.8	33	2.2	86	1.8	22	3.0	61	1.8
12	4,115	51.6	1,097	78.7	653	43.1	2,166	44.5	462	63.4	1,598	46.9
13+	488	6.1	65	4.7	76	5.0	329	6.8	28	3.8	296	8.7
Unknown	15	0.2	2	0.1	4	0.3	7	0.1	0	0.0	5	0.1
Total ^e	7,973	100.0	1,393	100.0	1,513	100.0	4,864	100.0	728	100.0	3,411	100.0

Average length of certification in months = 9.7

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more

^bEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^eDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-30—Distribution of participating households
by household size

Household size	All households		Households with elderly ^a		Households with earnings ^b		Households with children ^c		Households with disabled ^d		Households with AFDC income	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	(thousands)		(thousands)			(thousands)		(thousands)			(thousands)	
1	2,547	31.9	1,014	72.8	155	10.3	70	1.4	347	47.6	43	1.3
2	1,806	22.7	257	18.5	310	20.5	1,284	26.4	98	13.4	1,072	31.4
3	1,597	20.0	63	4.5	366	24.2	1,499	30.8	105	14.4	1,047	30.7
4	1,032	12.9	34	2.4	316	20.9	1,020	21.0	77	10.6	637	18.7
5	612	7.7	16	1.2	220	14.6	612	12.6	59	8.1	385	11.3
6	202	2.5	4	0.3	74	4.9	202	4.1	16	2.2	117	3.4
7	88	1.1	0	0.0	34	2.2	88	1.8	10	1.3	56	1.7
8+	88	1.1	4	0.3	38	2.5	88	1.8	17	2.3	53	1.5
Total^e	7,973	100.0	1,393	100.0	1,513	100.0	4,864	100.0	728	100.0	3,411	100.0
Average size	2.6		1.4		3.5		3.5		2.4		3.3	

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^eDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-31--Household composition of participating households

Household type	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
Single adults		
Female	1,579	19.8
Male	968	12.1
Subtotal	2,547	31.3
Multiple adults without children^a		
Female head, no spouse	246	3.1
Male head, no spouse	39	0.5
Female head, spouse present	130	1.6
Male head, spouse present	217	2.7
Subtotal	632	7.7
Single adults with children		
Female head	3,142	39.4
Male head	151	1.9
Subtotal	3,293	41.3
Multiple adults with children		
Female head	885	11.1
Male head	484	6.1
Unknown	4	0.0
Subtotal	1,373	17.2
Children only	129	1.6
Total^b	7,973	100.0

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-32--Distribution of participating households by household size,
number of elderly, children, preschool-age children,
and school-age children

	Household size								Number of households (thousands)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
Number of elderly^a									
0	1,533	1,549	1,535	998	596	197	88	84	6,580
1	1,015	125	37	25	14	3	0	4	1,223
2	**	132	26	9	2	1	--	--	170
Number of children^b									
0	2,477	522	98	12	--	--	--	--	3,109
1	70	1,231	449	99	11	1	--	0	1,861
2	**	54	1,018	397	68	5	--	--	1,542
3	**	**	32	514	297	22	4	0	870
4	**	**	**	11	236	100	14	8	369
5+	**	**	**	**	1	73	70	79	222
Number of school-age children^c									
0	2,517	1,069	472	197	33	3	--	--	4,291
1	31	722	631	281	106	18	6	1	1,795
2	**	16	483	333	173	36	4	3	1,048
3	**	**	11	215	211	62	26	21	546
4	**	**	**	6	89	60	30	23	208
5+	**	**	**	**	0	23	22	41	85
Number of preschool-age children^d									
0	2,508	1,229	831	465	253	75	22	10	5,393
1	40	570	581	324	210	65	23	36	1,847
2	**	8	186	194	119	43	32	30	611
3	**	**	**	50	30	12	10	9	111
4	**	**	**	**	1	6	1	3	11
Total^e	2,547	1,806	1,597	1,032	612	202	88	88	7,973

^aPersons age 60 or more.

^bPersons age 17 or less.

^cPersons age 5 to 17.

^dPersons less than age 5.

^eDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

** By definition, these are mutually exclusive categories; therefore, no households will be found in this category.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-33--Distribution of participants by age and sex

Age	Female		Male		Unknown		All participants	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
4 or less	1,716	8.3	1,732	8.4	1	0.0	3,449	16.6
5-17	3,404	16.4	3,403	16.4	4	0.0	6,811	32.8
18-35	3,913	18.9	1,390	6.7	1	0.0	5,304	25.6
36-59	1,950	9.4	1,110	5.4	1	0.0	3,060	14.8
60 or more	1,134	5.5	429	2.1	--	--	1,563	7.5
Unknown	274	1.3	276	1.3	1	0.0	551	2.7
Total*	12,391	59.8	8,339	40.2	6	0.0	20,737	100.0

*Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-34--Distribution of participants by Thrifty Food Plan
sex-age groups and by household size

	All participants	Household size							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
Children under age 12									
0-2 years	1,904	32	371	537	436	276	112	53	87
3-5 years	2,255	8	298	615	609	382	179	93	72
6-8 years	1,942	8	152	496	468	432	180	93	113
9-11 years	1,716	5	157	417	409	382	164	89	94
Males over age 12									
12-14 years	654	--	72	126	166	153	68	27	40
15-19 years	735	19	126	152	156	137	58	30	57
20-50 years	1,983	586	185	338	373	281	104	50	65
51+ years	739	329	253	79	38	22	7	5	5
Females over age 12									
12-14 years	689	7	82	167	157	143	57	39	38
15-19 years	915	34	221	221	166	145	44	31	53
20-50 years	5,005	430	1,215	1,379	973	603	207	88	108
51+ years	1,648	1,087	363	94	55	30	8	3	8
Unknown	556	2	119	172	122	75	21	15	29
Total^a	20,737	2,547	3,613	4,793	4,127	3,061	1,209	617	768

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No households in this category.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-35--Age-related characteristics of participants

	Number of participants (thousands)	Percent of participants
A. Children^a	10,259	49.5
1. Preschool-age children ^b	3,449	16.6
2. School-age children ^c	6,811	32.8
B. Adults^d	8,364	40.3
1. Parents	6,072	29.3
a. Single parents	3,316	16.0
Living with elderly	56	0.3
Disabled	106	0.5
Living with disabled	49	0.2
Other	3,105	15.0
b. Multiple adults	2,757	13.3
Living with elderly	34	0.2
Disabled	158	0.8
Living with disabled	210	1.0
Other	2,354	11.4
2. Nonparents	2,292	11.1
a. Single adults	1,677	8.1
Living with elderly	116	0.6
Disabled	348	1.7
Living with disabled	0	0.0
Other	1,212	5.8
b. Multiple adults	615	3.0
Living with elderly	23	0.1
Disabled	73	0.4
Living with disabled	57	0.3
Other	462	2.2
C. Elderly^e	1,563	7.5
D. Unknown age	551	2.7
Total^f	20,737	100.0

^aPersons age 17 or less.^bPersons less than age 5.^cPersons age 5 to 17.^dPersons age 18 to 59.^ePersons age 60 or more.^fDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-36--Distribution of participating households by race or ethnic origin of household head

Race/ethnic origin of household head	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
White	3,589	45.0
Black	2,914	36.5
Hispanic	1,107	13.9
Asian	119	1.5
American Indian	80	1.0
Unknown	163	2.0
Total*	7,973	100.0

*Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-37--Distribution of participating households by selected characteristics of household members

Households with at least one:	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
Alien ^a	84	1.1
Migrant	8	0.1
Military	1	0.0
Striker	4	0.0
Student ^b	461	5.8

^aHouseholds with at least one member who is accorded refugee status, granted political asylum, a nonimmigrant admitted for a specified period, granted a stay of deportation, a Mexican citizen with a 'border' card, or an undocumented alien.

^bHousehold member age 18 years or older enrolled at least half time in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-38--Distribution of participating households by employment status of household head

Employment status of household head	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
Employed full time ^a	598	7.5
Employed part time ^b	269	3.4
Self-employed	24	0.3
Farm employed	4	0.0
Not employed	5,604	70.3
Employed, other	127	1.6
Self-initiated education and training	172	2.2
Unemployed	701	8.8
Unknown	474	5.9
Total^c	7,973	100.0

^aEmployed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours. This estimate is based on the employment status variable.

^bEmployed less than 30 hours per week.

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-39--Distribution of participating households by work registration status of household head

Work registration status of household head	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of households
Required to register for work ^a	2,299	28.8
Exempt from work registration: ^b	5,508	69.1
Under or over required age ^c	1,161	14.6
Disabled	1,209	15.2
Pregnant ^d	68	0.9
Complying with work for another program	73	0.9
Caretaker of child or incapacitated adult ^e	1,982	24.9
Recipient of Unemployment Insurance (UI)	70	0.9
Participant in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment program	30	0.4
Employed full time ^f	642	8.1
Student ^g	68	0.9
Program not offered ^h	97	1.2
Other	107	1.3
Volunteers	52	0.7
Unknown	115	1.4
Totalⁱ	7,973	100.00

^aHousehold heads required to register for work under the FSP, or for WIN, IVA or JOBS. In previous reports in this series, this category referred to FSP work registrants only.

^bHousehold heads may fall into one or more of the exemption categories, but they are counted only once, usually in the first exemption category they meet.

^c"Under the required age" includes persons less than age 18. However, the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, requires 16- and 17-year-olds who are household heads and who are not in school or otherwise exempt to register for work. "Over the required age" includes persons age 60 or more.

^dThis work registration exemption applies only to the AFDC program. States may exempt work registrants from participation in FSP E&T programs for this reason, but not from FSP work registration.

^eFor the FSP, this exemption includes both caretakers of children under 6 and caretakers of children under 18 where another able-bodied parent is registered for work or exempted because of employment; for the AFDC program, this exemption applies to caretakers of children under 3 (or age 1 at state option).

^fEmployed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours. This estimate is based on the work registration variable.

^gEnrolled at least half time in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

^hThis work registration exemption applies only to the AFDC program. States may exempt work registrants from participation in FSP E&T programs for this reason, but not from FSP work registration.

ⁱDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-40--Distribution of participants by work registration status

Work registration status	All FSP participants		Nonelderly adult FSP participants ^a	
	Number (thousands)	percent	Number (thousands)	percent
Required to register for work:^b				
FSP Participants Receiving E&T Services ^c				
Participants with AFDC	504	2.4	480	5.7
Participants without AFDC	559	2.7	519	6.2
FSP Participants Not Receiving E&T Services				
FSP work registrants	1,191	5.7	1,172	14.0
AFDC work registrants	883	4.3	843	10.1
Exempt from work registration:^d				
Under or over required age ^e	11,258	54.3	51	0.6
Disabled ^f	1,481	7.1	1,214	14.6
Pregnant ^g	89	0.4	77	0.9
Complying with work for another program	83	0.4	83	1.0
Caretaker of child or incapacitated adult ^h	2,446	11.8	2,356	28.2
Recipient of Unemployment Insurance (UI)	94	0.5	92	1.1
Participant in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment program	31	0.2	30	0.4
Employed full-time ⁱ	927	4.5	911	10.9
Student ^j	529	2.6	176	2.1
Program not offered ^k	277	1.3	120	1.4
Other	186	0.9	149	1.8
E&T Volunteers	65	0.3	59	0.7
Unknown	134	0.7	31	0.4
Total^k	20,737	100.0	8,364	100.0

^aAges 18 to 59.

^bFSP participants required to register for work under the FSP, or for WIN, IVA or JOBS. In previous reports in this series, this category referred to FSP work registrants only.

^cE&T refers to employment and training services received under FSP E&T programs, WIN, or JOBS.

^dFSP participants may fall into one or more of the exemption categories, but they are counted only once, usually in the first exemption category they meet.

^e"Under the required age" includes persons less than age 18. However, the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, requires 16- and 17-year-olds who are household heads and who are not in school or otherwise exempt to register for work. "Over the required age" includes persons age 60 or more.

^fThis work registration exemption applies only to the AFDC program. States may exempt work registrants from participation in FSP E&T programs for this reason, but not from FSP work registration.

^gFor the FSP, this exemption includes both caretakers of children under 6 and caretakers of children under 18 where another able-bodied parent is registered for work or exempted due to employment; for the AFDC program, this exemption applies to caretakers of children under 3 (or age 1 at State option).

^hEmployed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours. This estimate is based on the work registration variable.

ⁱEnrolled at least half time in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

^jThis work registration exemption applies only to the AFDC program. States may exempt work registrants from participation in FSP E&T programs for this reason, but not from FSP work registration.

^kDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table totals.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-41--Distribution of participating households, benefits and participants for households with and without earned income

Households with:	Households		Benefits		Participants ^a	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Earned income ^b	1,513	19.0	\$254,046	21.5	5,261	25.4
No earned income	6,460	81.0	\$928,916	78.5	15,476	74.6
Total^c	7,973	100.0	\$1,182,962	100.0	20,737	100.0

^aNumber and percent of participants in households with and without earned income.

^bEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-42--Average value of selected characteristics for participating households with and without earned income

	Households with earned income ^a	Households with no earned income
Gross monthly income (dollars)	715	395
Net monthly income (dollars)	404	216
Total deductions ^b (dollars)	320	203
Countable resources (dollars)	108	76
Monthly benefit (dollars)	168	144
Household size (persons)	3.5	2.4
Certification period (months)	8.8	9.8

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^bIncludes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-43--Distribution of participating households with and without earned income for selected characteristics

	Households with earned income ^a		Households with no earned income	
	Number	Percent ^b	Number	Percent ^b
	(thousands)		(thousands)	
Zero gross income	**	**	590	9.1
Zero net income	152	10.1	1,364	21.1
Minimum benefit ^c	31	2.0	409	6.3
Elderly ^d	54	3.6	1,339	20.7
Children ^e	1,236	81.7	3,628	56.2
School-age children ^f	987	65.2	2,695	41.7
Preschool-age children ^g	615	40.6	1,966	30.4
Household size				
1	155	10.3	2,392	37.0
2	310	20.5	1,497	23.2
3	366	24.2	1,232	19.1
4	317	20.9	715	11.1
5+	366	24.2	624	9.7

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^bPercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

^cMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^eHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^fHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^gHouseholds with at least one member less than age 5.

**By definition, these are mutually exclusive categories; therefore, no households will be found in this category.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-44--Distribution of participating households, benefits and participants for households with and without elderly

Households with:	Households		Benefits		Participants ^a	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Elderly ^b	1,393	17.5	\$77,849	6.6	2,000	9.6
No elderly	6,580	82.5	\$1,105,113	93.4	18,736	90.4
Total^c	7,973	100.0	\$1,182,962	100.0	20,736	100.0

^aNumber and percent of participants in households with and without elderly persons.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-45--Average value of selected characteristics for participating households with and without elderly

	Households with elderly ^a	Households with no elderly
Gross monthly income (dollars)	466	453
Net monthly income (dollars)	271	248
Total deductions ^b (dollars)	204	230
Countable resources ^c (dollars)	206	56
Monthly benefit (dollars)	56	168
Household size (persons)	1.4	2.8
Certification period (months)	11.4	9.2

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bIncludes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those deductions to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^cThe resource limit for most households was \$2,000. However, households with at least one member age 60 or older were allowed up to \$3,000.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-46--Distribution of participating households with and without elderly for selected characteristics

	Households with elderly ^a		Households with no elderly	
	Number (thousands)	Percent ^b	Number (thousands)	Percent ^b
Zero gross income	18	1.3	572	8.7
Zero net income	104	7.5	1,412	21.5
Minimum benefit ^c	310	22.3	129	2.0
Children ^d	119	8.5	4,745	72.1
School-age children ^e	112	8.0	3,570	54.3
Preschool-age children ^f	27	2.0	2,553	38.8
Household size and sex of head				
1 Female	835	59.9	735	11.2
1 Male	179	12.8	769	11.7
1 Unknown	0	0.0	28	0.4
2	258	18.5	1,549	23.5
3	63	4.5	1,535	23.3
4	34	2.4	998	15.2
5+	25	1.8	965	14.7

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bPercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

^cMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^fHouseholds with at least one member less than age 5.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-47--Distribution of participating households, benefits and participants for households with and without disabled

Households with:	Households		Benefits		Participants ^a	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Disabled ^b	728	9.1	\$73,799	6.2	1,768	8.5
No disabled	7,245	90.9	\$1,109,163	93.8	18,969	91.5
Total ^c	7,973	100.0	\$1,182,962	100.0	20,737	100.0

^aNumber and percent of participants in households with and without disabled persons.

^bHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-48--Average value of selected characteristics for participating households with and without disabled

	Households with disabled ^a	Households with no disabled
Gross monthly income (dollars)	556	445
Net monthly income (dollars)	359	241
Total deductions ^b (dollars)	200	228
Countable resources (dollars)	81	82
Monthly benefit (dollars)	101	153
Household size (persons)	2.4	2.6
Certification period (months)	10.3	9.5

^aHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^bIncludes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-49--Distribution of participating households with and without disabled for selected characteristics

	Households with disabled ^a		Households with no disabled	
	Number (thousands)	Percent ^b	Number (thousands)	Percent ^b
Zero gross income	0	0.0	590	8.1
Zero net income	24	3.4	1,492	20.6
Minimum benefit ^c	57	7.8	382	5.3
Children ^d	320	44.0	4,544	62.7
School-age children ^e	278	38.3	3,404	47.0
Preschool-age children ^f	122	16.7	2,459	33.9
Household Size				
1	347	47.6	2,201	30.4
2	98	13.4	1,709	23.6
3	105	14.4	1,493	20.6
4	77	10.6	955	13.2
5+	102	14.0	889	12.3

^aHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^bPercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

^cMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^fHouseholds with at least one member less than age 5.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-50--Distribution of participating households and benefits for households with children, school-age children, preschool-age children, and no children

Households with:	Households		Benefits		Participants ^a	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Children ^b	4,864	61.0	\$965,204	81.6	16,874	81.4
School-age children ^c	3,682	46.2	\$767,194	64.9	13,693	66.0
Preschool-age children ^d	2,581	32.4	\$539,546	45.6	9,462	45.6
No children	3,109	39.0	\$217,757	18.4	3,863	18.6
Total^e	7,973	100.0	\$1,182,962	100.0	20,737	100.0

^aNumber and percent of participants in households with children, school-age children, preschool-age children, and without children.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^dHouseholds with at least one member less than age 5.

^eDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-51--Average value of selected characteristics for participating households with children, school-age children, preschool-age children, and no children

	Households with children ^a	Households with school-age children ^b	Households with preschool-age children ^c	Households with no children
Gross monthly income (dollars)	524	554	533	348
Net monthly income (dollars)	304	330	315	171
Total deductions ^d (dollars)	236	238	233	209
Countable resources (dollars)	54	61	44	126
Monthly benefit (dollars)	198	208	209	70
Household size (persons)	3.5	3.7	3.7	1.2
Certification period (months)	9.2	9.2	9.3	10.2

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^cHouseholds with at least one member less than age 5.

^dIncludes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-52--Distribution of participating households with children, school-age children, preschool-age children, and no children for selected characteristics

	Households with children ^a		Households with school-age children ^b		Households with preschool-age children ^c		Households with no children	
	Number (thousands)	Percent ^d	Number (thousands)	Percent ^d	Number (thousands)	Percent ^d	Number (thousands)	Percent ^d
Zero gross income	226	4.7	145	3.9	141	5.5	363	11.7
Zero net income	648	13.3	449	12.2	319	12.3	868	27.9
Minimum benefit ^e	17	0.4	13	0.4	7	0.3	422	13.6
Elderly ^f	119	2.4	112	3.0	27	1.1	1,274	41.0
School-age children ^b	3,682	75.7	3,682	100.0	1,399	54.2	0	0.0
Household size								
1	70	1.4	31	0.8	40	1.5	2,477	79.7
2	1,284	26.4	737	20.0	578	22.4	522	16.8
3	1,499	30.8	1,125	30.6	766	29.7	98	3.2
4	1,020	21.0	835	22.7	567	22.0	12	0.4
5+	990	20.4	954	25.9	630	24.4	0	0.0

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^cHouseholds with at least one member less than age 5.

^dPercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

^eMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

^fHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-53--Distribution of participating households, benefits and participants for households with and without AFDC income

Households with:	Households		Benefits		Participants ^a	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
AFDC income	3,411	42.8	\$666,427	56.3	11,360	54.8
No AFDC income	4,562	57.2	\$516,535	43.7	9,377	45.2
Total ^b	7,973	100.0	\$1,182,962	100.0	20,737	100.0

^aNumber and percent of participants in households with and without AFDC income.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-54--Average value of selected characteristics for participating households with and without AFDC income

	Households with AFDC income	Households with no AFDC income
Gross monthly income (dollars)	486	433
Net monthly income (dollars)	281	230
Total deductions* (dollars)	210	237
Countable resources (dollars)	34	118
Monthly benefit (dollars)	195	113
Household size (persons)	3.3	2.1
Certification period (months)	9.6	9.6

*Includes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-55--Distribution of participating households with and without AFDC income for selected characteristics

	Households with AFDC income		Households with no AFDC income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent*	Number (thousands)	Percent*
Zero gross income	**	**	590	12.9
Zero net income	318	9.3	1,198	26.3
Minimum benefit ^b	15	0.4	424	9.3
Elderly ^c	67	2.0	1,326	29.1
Children ^d	3,278	96.1	1,586	34.8
School-age children ^e	2,454	71.9	1,229	26.9
Preschool-age children ^f	1,773	52.0	808	17.7
Household size				
1	43	1.3	2,504	54.9
2	1,072	31.4	735	16.1
3	1,047	30.7	550	12.1
4	637	18.7	395	8.7
5+	611	17.9	379	8.3

*Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

^bMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^fHouseholds with at least one member less than age 5.

**By definition, these are mutually exclusive categories; therefore, no households will be found in this category.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-56—Comparison of average value of selected characteristics for August 1980 to summer 1990

	August 1980 ^a	August 1981	August 1982	August 1983	February 1983	August 1984	Summer 1985	Summer 1986	Summer 1987	Winter 1988	Summer 1988	Summer 1989	Summer 1990
Gross monthly income (dollars)	326	349	356	376	379	390	398	417	426	434	433	443	455
Net monthly income (dollars)	194	196	205	208	224	229	226	232	239	243	242	247	252
Total deduction ^b (dollars)	148	169	159	175	170	177	191	203	205	213	211	216	225
Countable resources (dollars)	66	62	58	73	54	58	63	71	79	82	92	84	82
Monthly benefit (dollars)	89	103	105	127	116	114	116	120	120	130	127	129	148
Household size (persons)	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6

^aExcludes Alaska and Hawaii.

^bIncludes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical and standard deductions (see Appendix E). Deductions are those to which households are entitled. Some deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Sources: August 1980 - Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Appendix Table A-57--Comparison of percentage of participating households with selected characteristics for August 1980 - summer 1990

Households with:	August 1980*	August 1981	August 1982	February 1983	August 1983	August 1984	August 1985	Summer 1986	Summer 1987	Winter 1988	Summer 1988	Summer 1989	Summer 1990
Zero gross income	8.1	7.3	7.8	5.4	6.6	6.5	6.8	6.0	6.0	6.9	6.6	7.0	7.4
Zero net income	16.6	18.7	18.9	18.4	16.4	17.5	19.8	18.6	17.7	18.6	18.3	17.9	19.0
Minimum benefit ^b	6.9	5.6	7.5	4.5	7.5	9.6	8.5	8.5	8.9	6.7	7.6	7.6	5.5
Elderly ^c	22.6	20.9	19.6	18.1	20.2	22.1	21.4	20.2	20.5	20.3	19.1	19.5	17.5
Children ^d	59.9	56.4	58.2	68.1	63.8	60.9	59.2	61.2	61.2	61.3	60.9	60.1	61.0
School-age children ^e	44.4	44.2	49.2	51.6	47.3	46.3	47.4	47.8	47.8	46.9	46.6	45.7	46.2

*Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

^bMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- or two- person households.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

Sources: August 1980 - Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

APPENDIX B
DETAILED TABLES OF CHILDREN IN FSP HOUSEHOLDS

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Appendix Table B-1--Distribution of children by age and gender, 1990

Age	Male		Female		Unknown		Total	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
0-1	552	10.8	541	10.9	0	6.7	1,093	10.8
2-3	808	15.7	785	15.7	1	15.1	1,593	15.7
4-5	739	14.4	691	13.9	1	15.3	1,431	14.1
6-8	987	19.2	919	18.4	0	9.8	1,906	18.8
9-11	832	16.2	812	16.3	1	22.6	1,645	16.3
12-14	670	13.1	656	13.2	0	10.8	1,327	13.1
15-17	546	10.6	585	11.7	1	19.7	1,132	11.2
Total*	5,133	100.0	4,990	100.0	4	100.0	10,127	100.0
Average		7.5		7.6				7.5

*Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table B-2--Distribution of children by race or ethnic origin,
and age, 1990

Race/ethnic origin and age	Number of children* (thousands)	Percent of children
White		
Age 0-5	1,542	42.0
Age 6-11	1,330	36.2
Age 12-17	803	21.9
Total	3,675	100.0
Black		
Age 0-5	1,561	40.2
Age 6-11	1,326	34.2
Age 12-17	995	25.6
Total	3,881	100.0
Hispanic		
Age 0-5	701	40.1
Age 6-11	595	34.0
Age 12-17	452	25.9
Total	1,748	100.0
Asian/Pacific Islander		
Age 0-5	105	33.2
Age 6-11	120	37.9
Age 12-17	92	29.0
Total	318	100.0
Native American		
Age 0-5	62	42.4
Age 6-11	50	34.4
Age 12-17	34	23.3
Total	147	100.0
Unknown race/ethnic origin		
Age 0-5	146	40.8
Age 6-11	130	36.2
Age 12-17	82	23.0
Total	358	100.0
Total^b	10,127	100.0

*Children are persons age 17 or less.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table B-3--Distribution of children and households with children by household size, 1990

Household size	Number of children ^a (thousands)	Percent of children	Number of households with children ^b (thousands)	Percent of households with children
1	54	0.5	54	1.1
2	1,262	12.5	1,207	25.6
3	2,493	24.6	1,431	30.4
4	2,559	25.3	1,041	22.1
5	1,798	17.8	554	11.8
6	961	9.5	238	5.1
7	475	4.7	96	2.0
8+	527	5.2	86	1.8
Total^c	10,127	100.0	4,707	100.0
Average household size^d	4.3		3.5	

^aChildren are persons age 17 or less.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

^dThe average household size estimate of 4.3 persons is computed by summing household size for all households with children and dividing by the number of children. The average household size of 3.5 persons is computed by summing household size over all households with children and dividing by the number of households with children.

Source: 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table B-4--Distribution of children by household composition, 1990

Household composition	Number of children ^a (thousands)	Percent of children	Number of households with children ^b (thousands)	Percent of households with children
No adults	323	3.2	162	3.4
One adult				
Female	6,343	62.6	3,088	65.6
Male	242	2.4	124	2.6
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0
Two adults				
1 male, 1 female	2,473	24.4	1,021	21.7
Female only	318	3.1	141	3.0
Male only	7	0.1	5	0.1
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0
Three or more adults				
Male and female	359	3.5	148	3.1
Female only	59	0.6	19	0.4
Male only	1	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	1	0.0	0	0.0
Total ^c	10,127	100.0	4,707	100.0
Average number of adults ^d	1.5		1.3	
Average number of adult females	1.1		1.0	
Average number of adult males	0.4		0.3	

^aChildren are persons age 17 or less.^bHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.^dThe average number of adults in the first column is computed by dividing by the number of children, and the average number of adults in the third column is computed by dividing by the number of households with children.

Source: 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table B-5--Distribution of children and households with children by poverty, 1990

Gross income as a percentage of poverty ^a	Number of children ^b (thousands)	Percent of children	Number of households with children ^c (thousands)	Percent of households with children
25% or less	1,404	13.9	664	14.1
26-50	3,212	31.7	1,459	31.0
51-75	2,770	27.3	1,278	27.2
76-100	2,090	20.6	989	21.0
101-130	628	6.2	302	6.4
131 or more	23	0.2	15	0.3
Total^d	10,127	100.0	4,707	100.0
Average gross income as a percentage of poverty		54.9		56.4

^aDefined as the 1990 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see appendixes C and D).

^bChildren are persons age 17 or less.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table B-6--Distribution of children by poverty status and selected characteristics,^a 1990

Characteristic	Gross income as a percentage of poverty ^b							
	50% or less		51 - 100%		101% or more		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Age								
0-2	934	48.7	882	45.9	104	5.4	1,920	100.0
3-5	1,044	47.5	1,016	46.3	136	6.2	2,197	100.0
6-11	1,592	44.8	1,723	48.5	236	6.6	3,551	100.0
12-17	1,045	42.5	1,239	50.4	175	7.1	2,459	100.0
Total	4,616	45.6	4,860	48.0	651	6.4	10,127	100.0
Household size								
1	21	38.2	31	57.3	2	4.5	54	100.0
2	579	45.8	604	47.9	80	6.3	1,262	100.0
3	1,165	46.7	1,183	47.5	145	5.8	2,493	100.0
4	1,175	45.9	1,206	47.1	178	7.0	2,559	100.0
5	801	44.5	891	49.6	106	5.9	1,798	100.0
6	426	44.3	460	47.9	75	7.8	961	100.0
7	217	45.6	230	48.6	28	5.8	475	100.0
8+	235	44.6	254	48.3	37	7.1	527	100.0
Total	4,616	45.6	4,860	48.0	651	6.4	10,127	100.0
Household composition								
No adults ^c	124	38.3	188	58.1	11	3.5	323	100.0
Only female adults	3,414	50.8	2,992	44.5	314	4.7	6,720	100.0
Only male adults	100	40.0	132	52.7	18	7.3	251	100.0
Male and female adults	978	34.5	1,548	54.6	307	10.9	2,833	100.0
Total	4,616	45.6	4,860	48.0	651	6.4	10,127	100.0
Race and ethnicity								
White	1,535	41.7	1,835	49.9	305	8.3	3,675	100.0
Black	2,181	56.2	1,503	38.7	197	5.1	3,881	100.0
Hispanic	650	37.2	992	56.8	106	6.0	1,748	100.0
Other	250	30.4	529	64.4	43	5.3	822	100.0
Total	4,616	45.6	4,860	48.0	651	6.4	10,127	100.0
Income source^d								
Earnings	540	19.5	1,651	59.6	577	20.9	2,768	100.0
AFDC	3,332	49.9	3,180	47.6	171	2.6	6,683	100.0
Social Security	204	28.6	453	63.5	57	7.9	714	100.0
SSI	126	16.6	561	73.9	72	9.5	760	100.0
General Assistance	150	45.7	170	52.0	8	2.4	327	100.0
No Income	435	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	435	100.0
Total	4,616	45.6	4,860	48.0	651	6.4	10,127	100.0
Benefit amount as a percentage of the maximum								
0	0	0.0	0	0.0	18	100.0	18	100.0
Minimum benefit	0	0.0	74	23.3	243	76.7	317	100.0
1-25	0	0.0	1,723	84.0	328	16.0	2,052	100.0
26-50	722	21.8	2,532	76.5	57	1.7	3,312	100.0
51-75	2,781	84.2	516	15.6	4	0.1	3,301	100.0
76-99	1,113	98.7	14	1.3	0	0.0	1,127	100.0
Maximum benefit	4,616	45.6	4,860	48.0	651	6.4	10,127	100.0
Total								

^aChildren are persons age 17 or less.^bDefined as the 1990 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see appendixes C and D).^cAdults are persons age 18 or more.^dThe sum of individual income sources does not add to the total because households can receive income from more than one source.

Source: 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table B-7--Distribution of children by household income source, 1990

Income source	Number of children ^a (thousands)	Percent of children	Number of households with children ^b (thousands)	Percent of households with children	Average income from source ^c
Earned income					
Wages and salaries	2,768	27.3	1,201	25.5	\$618
Other earned income	64	0.6	28	0.6	358
Unearned income					
Aid to Families with Dependent Children	6,683	66.0	3,135	66.6	394
Household General Assistance	327	3.2	154	3.3	292
Supplemental Security Income	760	7.5	340	7.2	343
Social Security	714	7.1	318	6.8	393
Household unemployment income	260	2.4	113	2.4	448
No income	435	4.3	226	4.8	
Total^d	10,127	100.0	4,707	100.0	

^aChildren are persons age 17 or less.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^cAverage over households with income from specified source.

^dThe sum of individual income sources does not add to the total because households can receive income from more than one source.

Source: 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table B-8--Distribution of children living in households that claim the shelter deduction,^a 1990

Value of shelter deduction as a percentage of the cap ^b	Number of children ^c (thousands)	Percent of children	Number of households with children ^d (thousands)	Percent of households with children
None	3,643	36.0	1,531	32.5
Less than half of cap	1,933	19.1	948	20.1
50-99 percent of cap	1,808	17.9	916	19.5
Equal to cap	2,644	26.1	1,261	26.8
Greater than cap	100	1.0	51	1.1
Total^e	10,127	100.0	4,707	100.0
Average deduction as a percent of cap		45.1		48.0

^aDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bSubject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or older, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or older (see appendix E).

^cChildren are persons age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table B-9--Distribution of households with children by dependent-care deduction and ages of oldest and youngest children, 1990

Age of youngest and oldest child	Households with deduction		Households with children*	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Youngest < 3				
Oldest < 3	24	12.4	620	13.2
Oldest 3-6	21	10.9	464	9.9
Oldest 7-11	19	10.2	328	7.0
Oldest 12-17	11	5.7	269	5.7
Youngest 3-6				
Oldest 3-6	37	19.6	619	13.2
Oldest 7-11	31	16.5	493	10.5
Oldest 12-17	16	8.4	349	7.4
Youngest 7-11				
Oldest 7-11	18	9.4	464	9.9
Oldest 12-17	10	5.5	462	9.8
Youngest 12-17	3	1.5	641	13.6
Total	191	100.0	4,707	100.0
Average age of youngest child	3.9		5.5	
Average age of oldest child	7.7		9.1	
Average age of all children	4.7		6.5	

*Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

Source: 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table B-10--Distribution of children and households with children by amount of monthly food stamp benefit as a percentage of the maximum, 1990

Amount of monthly benefit as a percentage of the maximum ^a	Number of children ^b (thousands)	Percent of children	Number of households with children ^c (thousands)	Percent of households with children
Minimum benefit	18	0.2	17	0.4
1 - 25	317	3.1	163	3.5
26 - 50	2,052	20.3	925	19.7
51 - 75	3,312	32.7	1,440	30.6
76 - 99	3,301	32.6	1,524	32.4
Maximum benefit	1,127	11.1	638	13.6
 Total	 10,127	 100.0	 4,707	 100.0
Average monthly benefit as a percentage of the maximum		70.1		69.4
Average per-person benefit	\$57			

^aThe maximum monthly benefit varies by area (see appendix F).

^bChildren are persons age 17 or less.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

Source: 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table B-11--Distribution of children, all participants, households with children and all households by State, 1990

State	Children		All participants		Households with children		All households	
	Number (000s)	Percent	Number (000s)	Percent	Number (000s)	Percent	Number (000s)	Percent
Alabama	233	49.1	474	100.0	98	58.7	167	100.0
Alaska	14	54.8	26	100.0	6	69.7	8	100.0
Arizona	168	50.8	330	100.0	74	66.7	110	100.0
Arkansas	110	47.7	231	100.0	47	54.5	86	100.0
California	1,241	61.4	2,022	100.0	576	82.9	695	100.0
Colorado	112	50.0	224	100.0	54	62.2	87	100.0
Connecticut	75	54.7	137	100.0	35	66.8	52	100.0
Delaware	18	54.3	33	100.0	8	68.2	12	100.0
District of Columbia	35	54.0	65	100.0	17	63.1	27	100.0
Florida	389	49.5	787	100.0	168	55.5	303	100.0
Georgia	248	47.5	522	100.0	112	55.7	201	100.0
Hawaii	38	47.5	80	100.0	16	50.4	31	100.0
Idaho	28	50.1	56	100.0	13	61.2	21	100.0
Illinois	490	48.0	1,022	100.0	227	54.3	418	100.0
Indiana	149	48.5	307	100.0	71	65.5	109	100.0
Iowa	83	47.7	174	100.0	41	60.8	68	100.0
Kansas	65	46.3	140	100.0	30	55.3	54	100.0
Kentucky	202	43.1	469	100.0	101	59.7	168	100.0
Louisiana	355	48.1	738	100.0	158	62.7	252	100.0
Maine	40	41.9	95	100.0	21	50.8	41	100.0
Maryland	138	50.7	272	100.0	67	60.4	112	100.0
Massachusetts	167	48.5	344	100.0	85	56.2	152	100.0
Michigan	464	49.9	929	100.0	226	58.9	384	100.0
Minnesota	118	45.9	257	100.0	56	52.1	107	100.0
Mississippi	230	46.5	495	100.0	99	55.7	177	100.0
Missouri	199	46.6	427	100.0	92	55.4	166	100.0
Montana	27	48.8	55	100.0	12	59.0	21	100.0
Nebraska	45	48.0	94	100.0	20	54.2	37	100.0
Nevada	24	47.2	51	100.0	11	49.0	22	100.0
New Hampshire	13	43.5	30	100.0	7	48.6	14	100.0
New Jersey	215	55.3	389	100.0	97	64.8	150	100.0
New Mexico	80	49.5	162	100.0	35	65.3	53	100.0
New York	776	47.2	1,642	100.0	364	52.3	696	100.0
North Carolina	196	47.6	412	100.0	89	54.1	165	100.0
North Dakota	19	48.2	39	100.0	9	61.4	15	100.0
Ohio	527	46.4	1,136	100.0	259	56.6	458	100.0
Oklahoma	122	46.1	264	100.0	57	54.4	105	100.0
Oregon	88	41.9	210	100.0	44	47.7	93	100.0
Pennsylvania	448	45.6	983	100.0	217	52.1	416	100.0
Rhode Island	34	52.2	65	100.0	17	59.4	28	100.0
South Carolina	156	52.3	298	100.0	64	61.5	105	100.0
South Dakota	26	50.1	52	100.0	11	63.6	17	100.0
Tennessee	239	44.9	533	100.0	117	57.2	206	100.0
Texas	985	51.5	1,911	100.0	437	67.7	645	100.0
Utah	55	53.4	103	100.0	23	65.3	36	100.0
Vermont	17	44.5	38	100.0	8	49.3	17	100.0
Virginia	167	46.6	358	100.0	81	56.0	144	100.0
Washington	176	50.0	352	100.0	89	62.4	143	100.0
West Virginia	107	41.4	259	100.0	56	58.0	97	100.0
Wisconsin	166	57.0	291	100.0	75	76.8	98	100.0
Wyoming	14	49.6	28	100.0	7	65.7	10	100.0
Nation	10,127	49.6	20,411	100.0	4,707	60.3	7,803	100.0

Source: 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

APPENDIX C
POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES FOR 1990

Appendix C--Poverty income guidelines for 1990*

Household Size	Continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$5,980	\$7,480	\$6,870
2	8,020	10,030	9,220
3	10,060	12,580	11,570
4	12,100	15,130	13,920
5	14,140	17,680	16,270
6	16,180	20,230	18,620
7	18,220	22,780	20,970
8	20,260	25,330	23,320
Each additional member	+2,040	+2,550	+2,350

*Annual income for nonfarm families. These poverty guidelines are established by the Office of Management and Budget. The Bureau of the Census establishes different poverty guidelines.

Source: 54 Federal Register 31, February 16, 1989.

APPENDIX D

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE GROSS AND NET MONTHLY FOOD STAMP INCOME ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS IN SUMMER 1990

Appendix Table D-1--Maximum allowable gross monthly food stamp income eligibility standards in summer 1990

Household size	Continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$648	\$811	\$745
2	869	1,087	999
3	1,090	1,363	1,254
4	1,311	1,640	1,508
5	1,532	1,916	1,916
6	1,753	2,192	2,018
7	1,974	2,468	2,272
8	2,195	2,745	2,527
Each additional member	+221	+277	+255

*The food stamp gross income standards in effect from October 1, 1989 - September 30, 1990.

Source: 55 Federal Register 887, January 10, 1990, and 55 Federal Register 1497, January 16, 1990.

Appendix Table D-2--Maximum allowable net monthly food stamp income eligibility standards in summer 1990

Household size	Continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$499	\$624	\$573
2	669	836	769
3	839	1,049	965
4	1,009	1,261	1,160
5	1,179	1,474	1,356
6	1,349	1,686	1,552
7	1,519	1,899	1,748
8	1,689	2,111	1,944
Each additional member	+170	+213	+196

*The food stamp net income standards are equal to the Department of Health and Human Services poverty income guidelines (appendix C) divided by 12, rounded up to the nearest dollar. These standards are in effect from October 1, 1989 - September 30, 1990.

Source: 55 Federal Register 887, January 10, 1990, and 55 Federal Register 1497, January 16, 1990.

APPENDIX E

VALUE OF STANDARD AND MAXIMUM DEPENDENT-CARE AND EXCESS SHELTER EXPENSE DEDUCTIONS IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND OUTLYING AREAS IN SUMMER 1990

Appendix E--Value of standard and maximum dependent care and excess shelter deductions in continental United States and outlying areas in summer 1990^a

Area	Standard	Dependent Care^b	Excess Shelter^c
Continental United States	\$112	\$160	\$177
Alaska	191	160	308
Hawaii	158	160	253
Guam	224	160	215
Virgin Islands	98	160	131

^aThese standards are in effect from October 1, 1989 - September 30, 1990.

^bThe dependent care deduction limit is \$160 per dependent.

^cLimit on excess shelter deduction for households with no member age 60 or more or no disabled member.

Source: 55 Federal Register 887, January 10, 1990, and 55 Federal Register 1497, January 16, 1990.

APPENDIX F

VALUE OF MAXIMUM BENEFIT IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND OUTLYING AREAS IN SUMMER 1990

Appendix F--Value of maximum benefit in
the continental United States and outlying areas in summer 1990*

Household Size	Continental U.S.	Alaska Urban	Alaska Rural I	Alaska Rural II	Alaska Nenana	Hawaii	Guam	Virgin Islands
1	\$99	\$123	\$158	\$192	\$158	\$151	\$146	\$127
2	182	227	289	352	290	276	268	234
3	260	325	414	504	415	396	384	335
4	331	413	526	641	527	503	488	425
5	393	490	625	761	626	598	579	505
6	472	588	750	913	752	717	695	606
7	521	650	829	1,009	831	793	768	620
8	596	743	948	1,154	949	906	878	766
Each additional member	+75	+93	+119	+144	+119	+113	+110	+96

*The maximum benefit values are effective from October 1, 1989 to September 30, 1990 and are based on 102.05 percent of the cost of Thrifty Food Plan in the preceding June for a reference family of four, rounded to the lowest dollar increment.

^bDue to the unusual nature of Alaskan terrain and climate, areas outside major urban centers are less accessible to food distributors. Therefore, the value of the maximum benefit accounts for this added expense by splitting the Thrifty Food Plan into four separate components: Rural I, Rural II, Nenana, and Urban.

Source: 55 Federal Register 887, January 10, 1990, and 55 Federal Register 1497, January 16, 1990.

APPENDIX G
SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

The Sample

The estimates in this report are derived from a sample of households selected for review as part of the Integrated Quality Control System (IQCS). This system is an ongoing review of food stamp household circumstances designed to determine (1) if households are eligible to participate or are receiving the correct benefit amount and (2) if household participation is correctly denied or terminated. The IQCS is based on a national probability sample of approximately 70,000 participating food stamp households, and on a somewhat smaller number of denials and terminations. The national sample of participating households collected in the IQCS is stratified by the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Annual required State samples range from a minimum of 300 to a maximum of 2,400 reviews, depending on the size of the State's caseload. State agencies select an independent sample each month that is generally proportional to the size of the monthly participating caseload.¹

The estimates presented in appendix A of this report are derived from the summer 1990 food stamp IQCS sample of participating households. To ensure an adequate sample size, both July and August samples comprised the data for summer 1990. The summer 1989 and summer 1990 sample sizes were approximately the same. The estimates presented in appendix B of this report are derived from the samples for all months of the fiscal year 1990 food stamp IQCS sample of participating households.

Target Universe

The target universe of this study included all participating households (active cases) subject to quality control review in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Participating households in Guam and the Virgin Islands were also sampled, but these results are not included in the tabulations.

While almost all participating food stamp households are included in the target universe, certain types not amenable to review are not included. Specifically, the universe includes all households receiving food stamps during a review period except those in which the participants (1) died or moved outside the State; (2) received benefits by a disaster certification authorized by FNS; (3) were under investigation for FSP fraud (including those with pending fraud hearings) and/or were appealing a notice of adverse action when the review date fell within the time period covered by continued participation pending a hearing; or (4) received restored benefits in accordance with the State manual, but who were otherwise ineligible. The sampling unit within the universe each month is the active food stamp household as specified in FNS regulations.

¹Several States have integrated the Food Stamp, AFDC, and Medicaid QC sample selection and review process. In these States, monthly sample sizes are not necessarily proportional to monthly caseload sizes.

Weighting

The estimates for summer 1990 in this report are based on a total of 10,639 valid observations and the estimates for fiscal year 1990 are based on a total of 64,517 valid observations.² The sample findings have been weighted according to the number of participating households as reported to FNS. The case record sample weights of several States were adjusted to reflect the disproportionately stratified quality control sample designs in those States.

Income Decision Rule

Several household-level income and deduction variables are both reported and can be calculated by summing across person-level variables. Gross income is the key variable, since the earned income and excess shelter expense deductions and net income depend on gross income, and benefit levels depend on net income. The data on which this report is based were edited to achieve internal consistency. The mean values for selected variables broken out by their calculated and reported values are presented in appendix table G-1 for summer 1990 and in appendix table G-2 for fiscal year 1990.

Comparison to Participation Data

The following data present a comparison of the quality control sample-based estimates to aggregate program participation data (excluding Guam and the Virgin Islands):

Average monthly value	Summer 1990 Program Data	Summer 1990 IQCS Sample	Fiscal Year 1990 Program Data	Fiscal Year 1990 IQCS Sample
Number of households	7,980,500	7,973,231	7,816,040	7,802,972
Number of participants	20,421,609	20,736,677	20,086,124	20,411,495
Value of benefits	\$1,191,050,931	\$1,182,961,800	\$1,183,774,487	\$1,169,995,626
Average household size	2.56	2.60	2.57	2.62
Average bonus per person	\$58.32	\$57.05	\$58.93	\$57.32

Completion Rates

Failure to complete reviews for all cases selected subject to review can bias the sample results if the characteristics of unreviewed households are significantly different from those of reviewed households. While there are no direct measures of such differences, the ratio of valid observations to sample cases selected for review provides an indication of the magnitude of any potential bias. The expected number of cases subject to review in the sample is based on one-sixth of all cases reported as subject to review during October 1989 - September 1990. However, since summer caseloads are smaller than caseloads during other times of the year, this approach probably results in a slight overestimation of the total expected number, and thus in a slight underestimation of the completion rate, for the

²These observations do not include cases from Guam and the Virgin Islands.

summer 1990 sample. The number of cases selected subject to review, the number of valid observations, and the estimated completion rates for summer 1990 and fiscal year 1990 are as follows:

	Summer 1990 IQCS Sample	Fiscal Year 1990 IQCS Sample
Number of cases selected subject to review	11,660	70,594
Number of cases completed	10,650	64,593
Estimated completion rate	91.3%	91.5%

Even though possibly an underestimate, these completion rates compare favorably with other surveys of this nature.

Appendix Table G-1--Comparison of mean calculated and reported values for selected variables of participating households, summer 1990

	All households	Households with			
		Earnings ^a	Elderly ^b	Children ^c	Disabled ^d
(AVERAGES)					
Gross income					
Calculated	\$455	\$715	\$466	\$524	\$556
Reported	461	727	466	534	556
Net income					
Calculated	252	404	271	304	359
Reported	245	394	262	298	350
Total deduction ^e					
Calculated	225	320	204	236	200
Reported	223	308	204	232	200
Benefit					
Calculated	148	168	56	198	101
Reported	148	166	57	197	103
(PERCENTAGES)					
Percent with zero gross income					
Calculated	7.4	0.0	1.3	4.7	0.0
Reported	7.2	0.1	1.2	4.2	0.1
Percent with zero net income					
Calculated	19.0	10.1	7.5	13.3	3.4
Reported	19.7	11.0	7.7	13.6	3.9
Percent with minimum benefit ^f					
Calculated	5.5	2.0	22.2	0.4	7.8
Reported	4.8	1.7	20.1	0.3	6.7

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^eIncludes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^fMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- or two-person households.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table G-2--Comparison of mean calculated and reported values for selected variables of participating households, 1990

	All households	Households with			
		Earnings ^a	Elderly ^b	Children ^c	Disabled ^d
(AVERAGES)					
Gross income					
Calculated	\$453	\$702	\$464	\$524	\$548
Reported	455	704	463	527	548
Net income					
Calculated	251	395	266	306	348
Reported	243	386	256	299	340
Total deduction ^e					
Calculated	225	318	208	234	203
Reported	222	306	207	230	203
Benefit					
Calculated	150	173	58	202	97
Reported	149	172	60	200	98
(PERCENTAGES)					
Percent with zero gross income					
Calculated	7.4	0.0	1.6	4.8	0.0
Reported	7.2	0.1	1.6	4.4	0.0
Percent with zero net income					
Calculated	19.3	10.7	7.9	13.4	3.4
Reported	20.3	11.3	8.4	14.2	4.6
Percent with minimum benefit ^f					
Calculated	5.0	2.2	19.5	0.4	8.0
Reported	4.4	2.0	17.5	0.3	7.3

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^eIncludes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^fMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- or two-person households.

Source: 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

APPENDIX H
SAMPLING ERROR OF ESTIMATES

TABLES IN APPENDIX H

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Sampling Error

The estimates of the characteristics of food stamp households contained in this report are based on a sample of households. The summer 1990 estimates are based on a summer sample (an average of July and August). Since the estimates are based on a sample, they are subject to statistical sampling error.

One important indicator of the magnitude of the possible sampling error associated with a given estimate is its standard error. Standard errors measure the variation in estimated values that would be observed if multiple replications of the sample were drawn. The magnitude of the standard errors depends on (1) the degree of variation in the variable within the overall population from which the sample has been drawn; (2) the design of the sample, including such issues as stratification and sampling probabilities; and (3) the size of the sample on which the estimate is based.

In this appendix, we present estimates of the standard errors associated with key variables for the statistics, and we outline methods for estimating the standard errors of other statistics for which standard errors have not been directly calculated.

Standard Errors and Confidence Intervals

The estimates presented in appendix A are based on the summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample. For these estimates, the standard error of estimates of proportions, s_p , based on simple random samples is given by the formula:

$$(1) \quad s_p = \sqrt{p(1-p)/(n-1)} ,$$

where p is the sample estimate of the proportion and n is the sample size.

The standard error of estimated numbers of households, s_N , based on simple random samples is given by the following formula:

$$(2) \quad s_N = N \sqrt{p(1-p)/(n-1)} ,$$

where N is the number of households in the population.

These formulas for the standard errors of the estimates based on simple random samples do not necessarily provide an accurate estimate for more complex stratified samples such as the stratified sample design used for this study. In this appendix, estimates produced by the formulas above are referred to as "naive standard errors." More accurate standard errors are provided for key estimates by directly calculating their standard errors through a replicate method as discussed below.¹

¹Standard errors have been estimated using the replicate sample method described in Leslie Kish, *Survey Sampling*, 1965, pp. 127-128. Under the replicate sample method, the sample is divided into random subsamples, and the variance of the mean of any given variable in the full sample is based on the variance of the means for that variable across the subsamples. In implementing this approach, the samples used in the estimation work were divided into 40 replicate subsamples.

Standard errors can be used to construct confidence intervals for estimated variables. A confidence interval is a range of values that will contain the true value of an estimated characteristic with a known probability. For instance, a 95-percent confidence interval extends approximately two standard errors above and below the estimated value for a characteristic, and 95-percent of all confidence intervals will contain the true value.

The following discussion presents estimated standard errors for a selected set of key estimates using the replication method. It then presents a simple method for approximating standard errors of estimated numbers of households and percentages for the national caseload when individual standard errors have not been estimated.

Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers of Households

The standard errors for selected estimates of FSP households in summer 1990 are shown in table H-1. These standard errors can be used to compute the 95-percent confidence interval for the estimated number of households with a particular characteristic. For example, the estimate in table H-1 of the number of elderly households with zero net income has a standard error of 12,000, and therefore, the 95-percent confidence interval extends from 84,000 to 128,000, around the point estimate of 104,000.² With such a confidence interval, 95-percent of all intervals constructed in this fashion will contain the true value of the variable.

For standard errors not shown in table H-1, the approximate standard error, S_E , of an estimated number of households for summer 1990 can be obtained by the use of the formula:

$$(3) \quad S_E = s_N \times d \times f,$$

where s_N is the naive standard error from either equation (2) above or from table H-2, d is the average design effect of 1.4, and f is an adjustment factor from table H-5 that potentially can improve the approximation by partially accounting for the variation in design effects across subgroups of the sample.³ The average design effect is the average increase in the size of the standard error estimated by the replicate method over that of the naive standard error appropriate for a simple random sample. Use of the adjustment factor f will generally improve the approximation when the base of the estimated percentage or number and the characteristic used in defining the percentage or total are quite similar to the bases and characteristics shown in table H-5. In other cases, f should be ignored by setting it to 1.0.⁴

²Calculated by rounding to the nearest thousand; $(104 - (2 \times 12)) = 84$ and $(104 + (2 \times 12)) = 128$.

³The average design effect reflects the loss of precision resulting from the existence of different sampling rates in different strata of the IQCS sample. It is the ratio of the average standard error computed by the replication method to the average naive standard error across all cells of table H-5.

⁴Table H-5 presents the adjustment factors for various categories of households defined by household composition and income receipt. For each household category, the adjustment factor "f" is the ratio of the design effects for the sample of that category of households to the design effects for the entire sample.

For example, to obtain the approximate standard error of the number of households containing an elderly person with zero net income, the first step is to obtain the size of the estimate. As shown in appendix table A-46, 104,000 elderly households have zero net income. The next step is to obtain the naive standard error from either equation (2) or less accurately from table H-2. Using equation (2), the value is 8,300 households.⁵ Multiplying 8.3 times the design factor d of 1.4 produces the first approximation of 11.62. In this case, the same base for the number of households (i.e., with elderly) and the same characteristic (i.e., zero net income) are defined in table H-5. Consequently, using the f factor from table H-5 should improve the approximation. Multiplying the first approximation of 11.62 times the adjustment factor of 1.187 from table H-5 produces a second approximation of 13.79. In this case, the approximation can be compared with the specific standard error estimate from table H-1, 11,660. The second approximation happened to be overestimated in this case, but is closer than the naive standard error of 8.3 thousand (the naive standard error does not account for sample design effects). However, it is not an improvement over the estimate based only on the average design effect (11.62).

Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages

The standard errors for selected estimated percentages of FSP households in summer 1990 are shown in table H-3. As discussed above, these standard errors can be used to compute the 95-percent interval for the estimated percentage. For example, the estimate in table H-3 of the percentage of households with children with zero gross income has a standard error of .34, and therefore, the 95-percent confidence interval extends from 4.02 percent to 5.38 percent--around the point estimate of 4.7 percent.⁶

For estimated percentages in summer 1990 not shown in table H-3, the approximate standard error, S_E , can be obtained by the use of the formula:

$$(4) \quad S_E = s_p \times d \times f$$

where s_p is the naive standard error from equation (1) above or less accurately from table H-4, d is the average design effect of 1.4, and f is an adjustment factor from table H-5 to improve the approximation as discussed above.

For example, to obtain an approximate estimate of the standard error for the percentage of households with children who have zero net income, the first step is to obtain the estimated percentage and the size of the base for the estimated percentage. From appendix table A-50, we see that 4,864,000 households have children. From appendix table A-52, we see that 13.3 percent

⁵Calculated as:

$$1,393 \times \sqrt{((104/1,393) \times (1 - (104/1,393))/1,941)} = 8.3,$$

where 1,393 is the estimated number of elderly households, 104 is the estimated number of households with elderly with zero gross incomes, and 1,941 is the sample size of elderly households. Table H-4 is accurate only for the full sample size of all food stamp households.

⁶Calculated by rounding to the nearest tenth of a percent as: $(4.7 - (2 \times .34)) = 4.02$, and $(4.7 + (2 \times .34)) = 5.38$.

of households with children have zero net income. The next step is to obtain the naive standard error from equation (1). Using equation (1), the square root of $(.133 \times .867)/(6,518-1) = .421$ percent. Multiplying the naive standard error of .421 times the average design factor of 1.4 times the specific adjustment factor of 1.16 from table H-5 produces an adjusted approximation of .684. In this case, the approximation can be compared with the specific standard error estimate from table H-3, .576. Thus, this approximation is closer to the actual estimated standard error.

Standard Errors of Estimated Means

The standard errors for selected estimated means in summer 1990 are provided in table H-6. These standard errors can be used to compute a 95-percent confidence interval. For example, the standard error for average gross income for all FSP households in summer 1990 as shown in table H-6 is 3.26, and its mean is \$455. Therefore, a 95-percent confidence interval extends between approximately \$448 and \$462.⁷

Generalized approximation methods such as those used above work well for standard errors of estimated numbers and percentages, since the standard errors depend only on the sample size, the estimated proportion, and the design effects. Generalized methods are less appropriate for standard errors of means, since the standard error depends on the variance as well as the sample size and design effects. However, a rough approximation of the likely magnitude of standard errors of means not included in table H-6 can be obtained from table H-7, which shows the standard error as a percent of the mean value for all FSP households and successively smaller subsets of households. In this table, the approximate standard errors as a percent of the mean value are shown as the average across the 12 variables from table H-6. The lowest and highest values across the 12 variables for each subset of households are also shown to give an indication of the quality of the approximation provided by the standard error expressed as a percent of the mean value. These standard errors include the design effects as they were estimated using a replication method.

⁷Rounding to the nearest dollar, $(455 - (2 \times 3.26) = 448$ and $(455 + (2 \times 3.26)) = 462$.

Appendix Table H-1--Standard errors of estimated numbers of food stamp households, summer 1990^a
(thousands)

Base of estimated number	Zero gross income	Zero net income	Minimum benefits	Households with Earned income	Elderly	Children	School-age children	Disabled	Sample size
All FSP households	25.22	31.15	18.27	41.25	34.48	41.82	50.73	26.41	10,639
With elderly	4.62	11.66	14.25	8.06	NA	12.69	12.45	NA	1,941
Without elderly	25.98	33.44	12.68	37.46	NA	42.44	49.64	26.11	8,698
With children	16.66	28.01	5.58	36.97	13.52	NA	38.22	26.54	6,518
With school children	11.05	23.54	4.64	32.76	13.07	NA	NA	23.81	4,888
Without children	18.77	23.90	17.10	17.90	32.09	NA	NA	21.05	4,121
With earnings	NA	14.14	6.35	NA	8.00	15.95	23.04	9.58	2,240
With disabled	NA	5.91	8.32	8.72	NA	19.12	18.23	NA	1,029

^aStandard errors computed as number of households in estimated base times the standard errors of the estimated percentages from Table H-3.
Standard errors in table H-3 were estimated with the replication method.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

NA = not applicable.

Appendix Table H-2--Naive estimate standard errors of estimated numbers of food stamp households, summer 1990 (thousands)

Size of estimate	Naive estimate of standard error ^a
10	2.74
50	6.10
100	8.60
250	13.47
500	18.74
1,000	25.60
2,000	33.51
3,000	37.45
4,000	38.65
5,000	37.38
6,000	33.35
6,500	30.00

^aApplicable when the base of the estimated number is all food stamp households.

$$\text{Naive standard error} = N \sqrt{p(1-p)/(n-1)}$$

where: N = the number of FSP households (7,973 thousand)

p = the size of the estimate divided by N

n = the size of sample (10,639)

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table H-3--Standard errors of estimated percentages
of food stamp households, summer 1990^a

Base of estimated percentage	Zero gross income		Households with minimum benefit its		Households with earned income		Elderly		Children		School-age children		Disabled	
	Zero net income	Zero net income	Minimum benefit its	Minimum benefit its	Elderly	Elderly	Children	Children	School-age children	School-age children	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
All FSP households	0.316	0.391	0.229	0.517	0.433	0.525	0.636	0.636	0.636	0.636	0.331	0.331	0.331	0.331
With elderly	0.332	0.837	1.023	0.579	NA	0.911	0.894	0.894	0.894	0.894	NA	NA	NA	NA
Without elderly	0.395	0.508	0.193	0.569	NA	0.645	0.754	0.754	0.754	0.754	0.397	0.397	0.397	0.397
With children	0.343	0.576	0.115	0.760	0.278	NA	0.786	0.786	0.786	0.786	0.546	0.546	0.546	0.546
With school children	0.300	0.639	0.126	0.890	0.355	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.647	0.647	0.647	0.647
Without children	0.604	0.769	0.550	0.576	1.032	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.677	0.677	0.677	0.677
With earnings	NA	0.935	0.420	NA	0.528	1.054	1.522	1.522	1.522	1.522	0.633	0.633	0.633	0.633
With disabled	NA	0.812	1.144	1.197	NA	2.627	2.504	2.504	2.504	2.504	NA	NA	NA	NA

^aStandard errors were estimated using the replication method.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

NA = not applicable.

Appendix Table H-4--Naive estimate of standard errors of estimated percentages of food stamp households, summer 1990^a

Base of est. percentage	Estimated percentage			
	5 or 95	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
10	5.97	8.21	11.85	13.69
50	2.67	3.67	5.30	6.12
100	1.89	2.60	3.75	4.33
250	1.19	1.64	2.37	2.74
500	0.84	1.16	1.68	1.94
1,000	0.60	0.82	1.19	1.37
2,000	0.42	0.58	0.84	0.97
3,000	0.34	0.47	0.68	0.79
4,000	0.30	0.41	0.59	0.68
5,000	0.27	0.37	0.53	0.61
6,000	0.24	0.34	0.48	0.56
7,000	0.23	0.31	0.45	0.52

^aApplicable when the base of the estimated number is all food stamp households.

Naive standard error = $\sqrt{p(1-p)/n}$, where p equals estimated percentage divided by 100, and n is the sample size of 10,639 for all food stamp households.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table H-5--Adjustment factors for standard errors of estimated percentages of food stamp households, summer 1990*

Base of estimated number	Zero gross income			Minimum benefits			Households with Earned income			Households with Elderly			Children			School-age children			Disabled			Average factor
	Zero net income	Zero net income	Minimum benefits	Households with Earned income	Households with Elderly	Households with Elderly	Children	Children	Children	School-age children	School-age children	School-age children	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled		
All FSP households	1.055	0.869	0.876	1.151	0.994	0.938	1.114	1.003	1.00													
With elderly	1.108	1.187	0.917	1.117	NA	1.215	1.226	NA	1.13													
Without elderly	1.106	0.977	1.095	1.081	NA	1.135	1.195	0.998	1.08													
With children	1.111	1.157	1.318	1.192	1.229	NA	1.251	1.503	1.25													
With school children	0.912	1.156	1.254	1.188	1.223	NA	NA	1.446	1.20													
Without children	0.752	0.686	0.872	1.097	1.140	NA	NA	1.089	0.94													
With earnings	NA	1.244	1.194	NA	1.140	1.091	1.280	1.320	1.21													
With disabled	NA	1.224	1.155	1.199	NA	1.436	1.398	NA	1.28													
Average factor	1.007	1.062	1.085	1.146	1.145	1.163	1.244	1.227	1.137													

*The adjustment factors are defined A/B ; where A = the ratio of the standard error computed by the replication method to the naive standard error for the specific cell of the table, and B = the ratio of the average standard error computed by the replication method to the average naive standard error across all cells.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

NA = not applicable.

Appendix Table H-6--Standard errors of estimated means, summer 1990^a

Base of estimated mean	Households with						Households with					
	Gross income	Net income	Benefits	All deductions	Total resources	Household size	Certification period	Earnings ^b	AFDC & GA ^b	SSI ^b	Dependent care costs ^b	Shelter deduction ^b
All FSP households	3.257	2.985	1.331	1.547	3.990	0.021	0.037	12.084	3.387	5.637	4.560	1.288
With elderly	5.716	5.557	1.814	3.342	12.624	0.029	0.088	42.153	12.737	7.108	c	4.147
Without elderly	4.322	3.925	1.503	1.705	4.425	0.025	0.041	12.778	3.424	7.244	4.561	1.198
With children	5.393	4.548	1.705	1.986	4.255	0.028	0.050	14.460	4.059	9.592	4.560	1.107
With school children	6.504	5.747	2.283	2.324	4.939	0.035	0.062	16.284	6.055	10.083	6.452	1.274
Without children	3.877	3.192	1.062	2.370	7.152	0.012	0.061	14.067	5.816	6.712	c	2.365
With earnings	10.935	9.296	3.250	2.909	14.552	0.058	0.109	12.084	12.192	17.536	5.559	2.893
With disabled	9.059	10.336	5.605	4.582	11.433	0.102	0.137	38.506	10.172	7.244	c	6.043

^aStandard errors were estimated using the replication method.

^bFor households with a nonzero amount.

^cSample size too small to make an estimate.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table H-7--Range of standard errors of mean amounts expressed as a percentage of the mean amount^a, summer 1990

Number of households in base of mean (thousands)	Standard error as percent of mean amount		
	Average ^b	Lowest ^c	Highest ^d
7,973 (all FSP households)	1.60	0.39	4.87
4,864 (households with children)	2.00	0.54	7.92
1,513 (households with earnings)	3.49	0.91	13.47
728 (households with disabled)	4.81	1.33	14.08

^aStandard errors were from table H-6 and mean amounts from applicable text tables.

^bAverage standard error across all 12 variables in table H-6 expressed as a percent of the mean amount.

^cLowest of the standard errors across all 12 variables in table H-6 expressed as a percent of the mean amount.

^dHighest of the standard errors across all 12 variables in table H-6 expressed as a percent of the mean amount.

Source: Summer 1990 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

APPENDIX I
DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT

Appendix I--Data collection instrument

Form Approved
OMB No. 0960-0313

INTEGRATED REVIEW SCHEDULE

PRIVACY ACT/PAPERWORK REDUCE ACT: This report is required under provisions of 45 CFR 205.40 (AFDC), 7 CFR 275.14 (Food Stamp), and 42 CFR 431.300 (Medicaid). This information is needed for the review of State performance in determining recipient eligibility. The information is used to determine State compliance, and failure to report may result in a finding of non-compliance.

I. REVIEW SUMMARY

1. Review Number	12. Case Number		
6. Decision			
AFDC/ADULT	FS	WA	17. Review Friends
			7. Review Friends
			8. Amount of Err
			AFDC/ADULT
			FS

II. CASE INFORMATION

9. Case Patient Opening	10. Prior Assistance	11. Type of Action	12. No. of Case Workers
ADULT	AFDC	FS	WA
13. Case Patient Closing			
14. Case Patient Closing			
15. Received Payment Since			
16. Sample Name's Payment			
17. Monthly Payment Received			

CASE INFORMATION - AFDC/ADULT

18. Received Payment Since	19. Unmon Cred	20. Unmon Cred	21. State Enforcement	22. Net SSI and T3 of Remunera
23. Gross Countable Income				24. Other or Decrease Case Discrepan
25. Gross Countable Income				26. Net Countable Income

CASE INFORMATION - FOOD STAMP

27. Case Classification	28. Month of Cred Period	29. Credit Amount	30. Food Service	31. Avg. Fep.	32. Gross Countable Income	33. Net Income Deduction	34. Net Case Cost	35. Discrepan Case Cost	36. Net Countable Income

CASE INFORMATION - MEDICAID

37. Medical Expenses Used in Net Spending Amount	38. Gross Countable Income	39. Net Countable Income

Form SSA-4357 (10-83) 17-10-4 (revised May 1984) (Long Form) - 4-4 and 4-5 and 4-6 and 4-7 and 4-8 and 4-9 and 4-10 and 4-11 and 4-12 and 4-13 and 4-14 and 4-15 and 4-16 and 4-17 and 4-18 and 4-19 and 4-20 and 4-21 and 4-22 and 4-23 and 4-24 and 4-25 and 4-26 and 4-27 and 4-28 and 4-29 and 4-30 and 4-31 and 4-32 and 4-33 and 4-34 and 4-35 and 4-36 and 4-37 and 4-38 and 4-39 and 4-40 and 4-41 and 4-42 and 4-43 and 4-44 and 4-45 and 4-46 and 4-47 and 4-48 and 4-49 and 4-50 and 4-51 and 4-52 and 4-53 and 4-54 and 4-55 and 4-56 and 4-57 and 4-58 and 4-59 and 4-60 and 4-61 and 4-62 and 4-63 and 4-64 and 4-65 and 4-66 and 4-67 and 4-68 and 4-69 and 4-70 and 4-71 and 4-72 and 4-73 and 4-74 and 4-75 and 4-76 and 4-77 and 4-78 and 4-79 and 4-80 and 4-81 and 4-82 and 4-83 and 4-84 and 4-85 and 4-86 and 4-87 and 4-88 and 4-89 and 4-90 and 4-91 and 4-92 and 4-93 and 4-94 and 4-95 and 4-96 and 4-97 and 4-98 and 4-99 and 4-100 and 4-101 and 4-102 and 4-103 and 4-104 and 4-105 and 4-106 and 4-107 and 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REVIEW NUMBER <i>(if not stamped, leave blank)</i>	III. DETAILED PERSON - LEVEL INFORMATION												IV. TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME, BY HOUSEHOLD MEMBER AND TYPE AND AMOUNT OF INCOME											
	41. Person Number	42. Food Stamp Case Num.	43. AFDC/MA Case Amt.	44. Relationship to Head of Household	45. Age	46. Sex	47. Race	48. Current Status	49. Edu. Non Level	50. Min. and F.S. Work Rec.	51. Employment Status	52. Military Status	53. Type of Income	54. Amount of Income	55. Type of Income	56. Amount of Income	57. Type of Income	58. Amount of Income	59. Type of Income	60. Amount of Income	61. Type of Income	62. Amount of Income		

REVIEW NUMBER If no (Please say 0/0)

V. ELIGIBILITY REVIEW INFORMATION - MEDICAID

62. Eligibility Coverage Codes
Agency OC

63. Head Case
Eligible Status

64. Head Case Liability Error

65. Amount of Errors Recorded

REVIEW NUMBER If no (Please say 0/0)

VI. DETAILED ERROR FINDINGS

66. Program Item Location	67. Error Finding	68. Case Number with Errors (Max)	69. Element	70. Nature Code	71. Agency or Date	72. Date Amount	73. Date of Entry	74. Ver ification	75. Occurrence	76. Per mit
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REVIEW NUMBER	if for General State Use		
VII. PAYMENT REVIEW INFORMATION - MEDICAID			
77. Date Amount of Paid Claims	78. Paid Case Bdg State	80. Spend down Months	81. Total Claims Used to Offset Initial LI Errors
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
82. Total Date Amount of Case Liability Errors	<input type="text"/>		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
83. Total Date Amount of Case Equity Errors	<input type="text"/>		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		

VIII. OPTIONAL - FOR STATE SYSTEMS ONLY

1.
2.
3.
4.

APPENDIX J
PREVIOUS REPORTS IN THIS SERIES

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, Summer 1989. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1991.

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, Summer 1988. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1990.

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, Winter 1988. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1990.

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Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, February 1983. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation.

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Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, November 1979. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation; 1981.

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, February 1978. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service; 1980.

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, September 1976. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service; 1977.

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, September 1975. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service; 1976.

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